

Chancellor's co-stars must be content with non-thinking roles

IT HARDLY seemed worth looking in on Treasury Questions yesterday — for why see the film when you have read the book? Friends in an opposition party had handed me the script in advance: they had found a spare copy lying around in Westminster.

The document was headed *Treasury Questions — 21 May — interventions on Sterling*. A glance made plain its purpose. These were "planted" questions for use by pious new-Labour backbenchers, in support of their government front bench. Whips had

guessed that the Chancellor would come under pressure from opposition MPs about the strength of sterling and the damage this threatens to manufacturing exports. They wanted loyal backbenchers to be ready to chip in on his side.

That is where the lucky recipients of this script came in.

They were to learn by heart (MPs are not allowed to read out) the following: "Is my Right Honourable Friend aware that what manufacturing wants is stability, and will he join me in congratulating

the engineering industry for an increase of output of over 3 per cent in the last year?"

MPs are no longer considered capable of thinking up questions like this on their own. Even the Right Honourable Friend was spelt out for them. The next question runs: "Would my Right Honourable Friend agree with me what manufacturers most worry about is a return to Tory boom and bust? And has he seen the latest survey which suggests there will continue to be expansion in manufacturing employment



and investment over the coming months?"

The next inquiry repeats, word for word, the "Tory boom and bust" mantra, then has the questioner ask: "Could I take this opportunity to remind the Chancellor that exports of British manufacturers have actually increased by over 7 per cent in the last year?"

Perhaps that is the strength, Gordon Brown, via his lackeys, is arranging to ask himself whether he may remind himself that manufacturers' exports have grown by 7 per cent.

Spoilsports might suggest that what the Prime Minister likes to call hoo-ha could be saved if Mr Brown skips Treasury questions, lies quiet

in a darkened room and reminds himself of what he already knows.

But that misses the point: it gives the backbenchers something to do.

All that flummery and swank, all those wimps, it seems an expensive and cumbersome way of getting bad prose drafted by deadbeat propagandists to be printed in Hansard.

Finally the poodles are advised to yap: "Could I ask my Right Honourable Friend to put to one side the negativity of the party opposite and

consider the fact that there are actually 5,000 more jobs in manufacturing now than there were a year ago?"

I refuse to tell you who asked which question yesterday. It may help their careers. As you read this, some 650 Members of Parliament brandishing rail and air travel warrants or car mileage allowances supplied at taxpayers' expense are packing trunks in the London flats they occupy at taxpayers' expense and returning home for a Whitsun holiday during which they will work hard

(many of them) at what MPs mostly do in their constituencies: using their bearded notepaper to enable the 1 per cent of our countrymen who would dream of taking a problem to an MP to jump the queues in which the remaining 99 per cent patiently wait.

In a week's time, brandishing more travel warrants, the same MPs will head back to the Commons, to "question" ministers. Call me old-fashioned, but if this is now the measure of it, may I ask why they bother?

Record number of NHS patients wait for surgery

BY IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

HOSPITAL waiting lists have grown to a record high of 1,297,700, according to official figures released yesterday.

Embarrassingly for the Government the total is 137,000 higher than at the time of the election last year, when Labour promised to cut the lists by 100,000.

The rate of increase, however, has started to slow, growing by about 400 a day instead of 600 a day in the months before Christmas.

The lists have lengthened despite a record number of 10.8 million operations performed. This is a 2 per cent increase over the previous year, itself a record, and highlights the problems caused by the ever-growing demand for medical treatment by the ageing and more health-conscious population.

With the number of patients being referred for operations growing faster than the NHS's ability to cope with them, Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, has challenged every health region in England to meet new waiting list targets. If they fail to do so, a regional task force of clinicians and administrators chosen for their proven track record of cutting waiting lists, will be sent in to show staff

seemingly inexorable growth of the waiting lists is being curbed. No patients in England were waiting more than 18 months for treatment at the end of March. To achieve this, more than 18,000 patients had to be treated between December and March. The number of patients waiting more than a year for treatment fell for the first time in two years, by more than 300.

The British Medical Association and the NHS Confederation, which represents all trusts and health authorities, said the Government was concentrating too much on waiting lists. "I hope we can begin to move away from the obsession with the number of people on the waiting lists and look more constructively at the time patients are waiting for different types of surgery," James Johnson, chairman of the BMA's consultants' committee, said. "The criteria should include consideration of clinical urgency, pain and distress and the disruption to normal life."

Stephen Thornton, chief executive of the confederation, said: "Attention should be focused on how long people wait, not how many are waiting. The intense focus on waiting lists risks draining resources from other areas such as high-quality cancer and mental health services."

how to do it. Alan Langlands, chief executive of the NHS, has been put in charge of ensuring that the targets are met. Those who set good practice and meet their targets can expect to receive extra money, while there will be sanctions against those who do not.

The work is crucially important to Mr Dobson's credibility because only if these targets are met will it be possible for him to keep his promise to cut waiting lists to the level inherited by Labour. That in turn is essential if the Government is to keep its election promise to cut lists to about a million by the end of this Parliament.

The latest set of figures, for the first three months of this year, show some signs that the



England cricket fans enjoy the beer and the sun at The Oval yesterday, but the score was not so satisfying. South Africa triumph, page 52

Securicor faces fines for jail failings

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

FINES totalling tens of thousands of pounds are to be imposed on Britain's first high-tech private jail because of poor management.

The cash penalty is another blow to Parc jail near Bridgend, South Wales, which has been plagued by problems since it opened six months ago. There have been two suicides, several disturbances and a riot.

Forty extra prison custody officers are to be drafted into the jail on Monday amid concern in the Prison Service at the number of disturbances

and they way it is being run by the security firm Securicor.

The Prison Service pays a consortium a monthly fee to manage the jail, but Securicor is liable for financial penalties as a result of operation problems.

A Prison Service spokesman said last night: "We have been in discussions with Securicor to rectify weaknesses identified at Parc. An action plan has been drawn up to strengthen the running of the jail and we are monitoring the situation there closely."

The disclosure that Securicor is to be fined comes just hours after control

and restraint teams from other prisons were deployed at the jail as a precautionary measure after a security alert in two wings after a day-long search for a weapon.

In a message to all prisoners yesterday the Prison Service said that the 40 new staff would begin work at Parc on Monday "with hopes of a more settled regime".

Earlier this month Joyce Quin, the Prisons Minister, ordered a report on the jail after the second suicide in six months. There were disturbances there in December, February and April. On the last two occasions 43 staff from neighbouring jails were

called in to help, at a cost of more than £3,500.

The jail is the first to use swipe cards and made much of its state-of-the-art technology which enabled one officer to oversee 75 inmates. The technology means one officer can be at a desk, control the remote locking of all cell doors and keep watch on inmates.

Harry Fletcher, of the pressure group Prisons are Not for Profit, said last night: "The regime at Parc is chaotic. All the new technology in the world does not replace adequate staff, supervisors and this has now been recognised in the employment of more staff at the jail."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Police back 24-hour opening of pubs

Police officers have backed proposals for changes to the licensing laws and the introduction of 24-hour drinking in England and Wales. The existing 34-year-old legislation was criticised as an administrative nightmare that drained police time and was an infringement of civil liberties.

Officers at the Police Federation annual conference in Bournemouth backed calls to "end the straightjacket" of licensing laws governing opening hours. "Let people decide where, when and if they wish to drink," Sergeant Sam Johnson of Cheshire police said. The Government has promised a full review of the licensing legislation, but reform is unlikely before the early years of the next century.

Blood service chief goes

John Adey, chief executive of the National Blood Authority, has been dismissed six weeks after Sir Colin Walker was sacked as chairman by Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary. The departure of Mr Adey spells the end of a planned reorganisation of the blood authority into zones that was initiated by Sir Colin in 1993. Mr Adey was appointed to oversee the changes, which were opposed by clinicians.

Questions for top diplomat

Sir John Kerr, Head of the Diplomatic Service, is to be cross-examined again by the Commons' Foreign Affairs Select Committee after he admitted giving it misleading information last week about the Sierra Leone arms affair. He had put out a statement saying that he had been wrong to suggest that Tony Lloyd, the Foreign Office Minister, was briefed in March about a customs investigation. Warriors defy death, page 18

Radio 4 changes 'popular'

Controversial changes to the Radio 4 schedule have proved unpopular only with a "small minority" of listeners, the BBC claimed. It produced research which suggests more than half are in favour of the revamp, implemented in April. The findings contradict those of Feedback, the station's sounding board. Letters sent to the programme were 90 per cent against the new schedule.

Baby death case

Continued from page 1

There must have been something in his saliva, I developed a blister on the back of my tongue.

Paramedics worked frantically to revive the child before taking him to Falton Hospital, in Runcorn. He was later transferred to Alder Hey, where he subsequently died.

Cheshire CID confirmed that it is investigating the death and that two people have been interviewed. And Martin Clayton, solicitor for the family, said that samples of the prescribed mixture were being analysed.

Mr Clayton said that it was not known whether the wrong quantities of the medicine's ingredients were mixed together or whether the baby was given the wrong substance altogether. "This should have been just something like gripe water and the baby should have been fine with just a teaspoonful."

A spokesman for Boots said: "Our deepest sympathies go out to Matthew's family. In the light of the coroner's inquest, it would be inappropriate for us to comment any further at this stage."

The case has now been transferred to the jurisdiction of the Cheshire coroner.

TOMORROW IN THE SATURDAY TIMES

ESCAPE FROM JAKARTA

The diary of an English mother

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Armed robbery

son convicted of violence

Chaplain 'amazed by allegation of sex assault'

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Armed robber's son convicted of violent raids

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE son of John McVicar, the former armed robber, was last night facing a lengthy prison sentence for a four-year series of violent raids.

Russell Grant-McVicar, 33, was convicted at the Old Bailey of robberies which brought him £100,000 in cash, and the theft of the £650,000 Picasso painting *Tête de Femme* while on the run. A jury found him guilty of eight robberies, two escapes, attempted robbery and five related firearms offences.

Grant-McVicar, who claimed from the witness box that he robbed in order to make "a spiritual statement" on behalf of starving children, will be sentenced today. As he was led to cells by four prison officers, he smiled and said goodbye to the jurors, having earlier shaken hands with members of the Flying Squad who had arrested him.

Grant-McVicar's 58-year-old father was once Britain's most wanted criminal and served 11 years of a 25-year sentence for armed robbery. He escaped from Durham high-security prison in 1968. He reformed after his release and began a career as a crime writer and broadcaster and scripted the film of his life - *McVicar* - in which Roger Daltrey, lead singer of The Who - played the title role.

Behind Grant-McVicar's conviction lies a deep re-arrangement from his father. He took his mother's maiden name of Grant to escape his father's notoriety and distance himself from the man he

blames for neglecting him during his childhood. In turn John McVicar, denigrated as the "darling of the fashionable Left" by his son, blames his offspring for not learning from his own experiences.

When Grant-McVicar escaped from police custody in 1993, his father was reported as saying that most people assumed his son's actions were a case of "chip off the old block". "In fact his motives are entirely different," he said. "He is essentially getting back at me, I guess, for not being around in his childhood when I was in prison." When Grant-McVicar was finally caught last August, he claimed he had wanted to be arrested or give himself up, but felt unable to do so "due to the fact my father is John McVicar".

He was on the run when he stole the Picasso painting. He

stepped from a taxi and walked into the Lefevre Gallery in Mayfair, London, to tell Jacques Cartright, an assistant: "I have got a gun. I want that painting."

He carried a holdall in which was concealed a double-barrelled shotgun. Grant-McVicar told her to take the painting off the wall, but when she said she was not allowed to, he ripped it from the wall himself. As he returned to the cab, he pointed the gun at the driver and told him to go to Berkeley Square, but later diverted to South London.

After his arrest in Southampton in August last year, Grant-McVicar gave police "clear, unambiguous and thoroughly detailed accounts of the robberies". When he gave evidence, he told the jury he robbed in order to make "a spiritual statement" on behalf of starving children and said he had been instructed by members of "the most powerful cult group on the planet".

He added: "I was told if I did not make a spiritual statement and undergo their strict instructions, that not only my life, but my child's life would be taken." The prosecution pointed out during cross-examination that after netting £50,000, Grant-McVicar had lost £10,000 gambling. "What about the starving children?" James Hines, for the prosecution, asked him. Grant-McVicar replied: "That has nothing to do with it. I was told I would make a spiritual statement. It had nothing to do with if I went to the bookies."



Grant-McVicar: blames his father for neglect

Chaplain 'amazed by allegation of sex assault'

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

AN ARMY chaplain accused of indecent assault told military police: "I am a flirt, not a pervert." Captain Richard Landall told police in Germany, where the offences were alleged to have happened, that he had been embarrassed when a soldier's wife, known as Mrs X, sat on his knee and that he had pushed her off.

Captain Landall, 41, had been astonished when the woman later made allegations of a sexual nature. He said that she was a liar. The police interview was read out to his court martial at Tidworth, Wiltshire. He said that he was flirtatious by nature and this was the first time his behaviour had been found offensive.

Captain Landall told police that he had become friendly with the woman and her husband, with whom he had served in Bosnia, and had been invited to their home one evening. He vehemently denied ever holding hands with the woman he is alleged to have indecently assaulted or kissing her on the mouth.

The chaplain to the 2nd Battalion, Royal Regiment of Fusiliers denies four charges of indecent assault and an alternative charge of harassing the woman. He also denies harassing a fusilier and his wife and conduct to the prejudice of good order, in 1997. The court martial continues.

Boys convicted under nuisance neighbour law

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

TWO 13-year-old boys yesterday became the first youths to be convicted under anti-harassment laws for being nuisance neighbours.

They belonged to a gang of youths who subjected their neighbours to almost constant bullying and round-the-clock intimidation, including swearing and stone throwing.

One teenage victim of the gang had been so upset that he sought treatment for depression, a court was told. The successful outcome of the hearing at Leicester youth court highlights how a law designed primarily to stop stalking can also be used against nuisance neighbours and persistent racial abusers.

The boys were each given 12 hours' attendance orders, requiring them to report to a centre to carry out "active and useful" work at weekends. Their parents were bound over in the sum of £100 for 12 months to exercise care and control over their children.

The children were given year-long restraining orders forbidding them to contact or go to the home of their victims on a private housing estate. The attendance centre orders and legal costs were suspended pending the outcome of an appeal against conviction.

Gregory Beavers, for the prosecution, told the court that

they were not accused of violence but of causing annoyance to their neighbours. "They were spoiling their quality of life with behaviour which people should not have to put up with outside their homes," he said.

The court was told that the two boys and another teenager led a campaign of hate against a family whose lives had been plagued by gangs for almost seven years.

The mother of the family that endured the harassment said: "It's made me very apprehensive but I've had to keep up my strength for my children. We just want to lead a peaceful life."

On one occasion her son was challenged to a fight and told his head would be "smashed in". In another incident a youth threatened to push fireworks through their letterbox.

The convicted boys had denied causing harassment to the family over an eight-week period from August last year. The youths were charged under section 2 of the Protection from Harassment Act, introduced to provide police extra powers of arrest, particularly against stalkers.

Sentencing of the third youth, now aged 16, was adjourned for the preparation of reports.



DESSERT ORCHID is ahead of the jockey Mark Dwyer by a nose as he parades in his famous colours, which are to go under the hammer to raise money for charity. Christie's auction house said yesterday. The racing colours associated with Desert Orchid are expected to realise more than £10,000 when they are sold on June 5. The blue and grey woolen jersey and grey silk

Famous grey's colours for sale

cap, worn by Richard Donwoody when Desert Orchid won its third and fourth King George VI races in 1989 and 1990 and the Irish Grand

National in 1990, will be offered. Desert Orchid was the sport's biggest equine name when it was retired in 1991, the day after crashing

out of the King George VI Rank Chase. The horse's career included 34 victories in 71 races, winning £654,066. Yesterday Desert Orchid was in front of the cameras again when he showed off the colours in Malton, North Yorkshire. The auction, Sporting Art, will also feature paintings and items associated with racing, shooting, and fishing.

Python win resurrects The Life of Brian

By PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

THE Monty Python team yesterday wrestled back control of its most controversial film, *The Life of Brian*, 20 years after its release provoked accusations of blasphemy.

In the High Court, Mr Justice Rattee ruled that deals struck between the distributors, Paragon Entertainment Corporation of Canada, and Channel 4 suppressed the value of one Britain's most successful movies.

A ribald satire based on the life of Christ, the film was made in 1978 largely with funds from Handmade Films, a company headed by George Harrison, the former Beatle. In 1994, Paragon, which is involved in insolvency actions, bought the rights to the film for \$8 million (£5 million) from Handmade Films.

The deal failed to take note of Python's rights to assess sales of the film and to make any cuts to conform to local censorship rules. Mr Justice Rattee ruled that this failure meant that Paragon lost all rights to the film, which now revert to Python.

As a result, licences worth \$100,000 to show the film, granted by Paragon to Channel 4 in 1995 and 1996, were ineffective. Python will sue Channel 4 for damages.

Channel 4 is considering an appeal. "We consider ourselves the innocent parties in this case," a spokesman said.



DEEP BENEATH THE OCEAN, DR. SYLVIA EARLE'S ROLEX IS AN INDISPENSABLE PIECE OF OCEANOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT.

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a submarine hatch, and is waterproof

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delicate self-winding movement within

is protected every bit as well as

Dr. Earle. And, as Dr. Earle would be

the first to agree, it looks far

better on her than the suit.



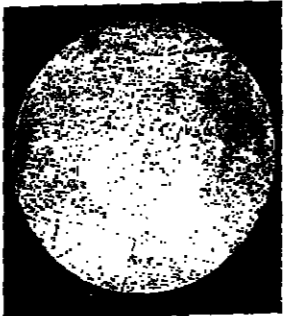
Jupiter's icy moon may be in the first flush of life

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

SHOULD human beings ever step on Europa, one of Jupiter's moons, they need not fear constipation. The surface is littered with Epsom salts, a potent laxative.

The surprising discovery was made by the spacecraft *Galileo*. Signals detected from the surface showed the presence not only of Epsom salts, which are magnesium sulphate, but also sodium carbonate - washing soda or bath salts.

The finding, reported in *Science* by a team led by Thomas McCord of the University of Hawaii, adds to the fascination of Europa, which scientists believe is the most likely place in the solar system to support some form of life. *Galileo* has



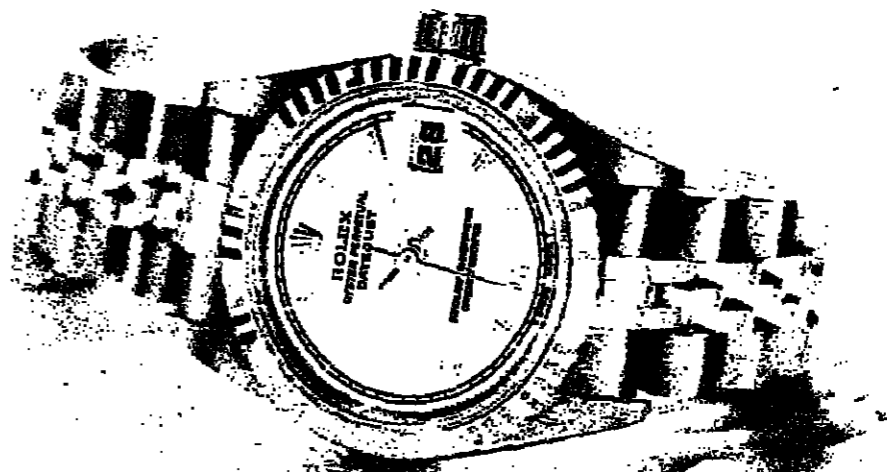
Europa as seen by the spacecraft Galileo

expected to carry electrical currents generated by Jupiter's magnetic field.

These currents would in turn produce a magnetic field on Europa with certain characteristics. *Galileo* has detected just such a field, lending strong support to the belief in the existence of the oceans and the salts.

"This is an amazing confluence of observations and interpretations that rarely happens so neatly in planetary science," Jeffrey Kargel, of the US Geological Survey, says in *Science*.

The findings also have implications for the possibility of life. If Europa's oceans are rich in carbonates, as the findings suggest, they would have something in common with conditions early in the history of the Earth, when life was first evolving.



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THE TIMES FRIDAY MAY 22 1998

Gardeners attacked for using ungreen product

By Guy Walters

MOST visitors to the Chelsea Flower Show would regard themselves as being environmentally friendly, but they found themselves under attack from Friends of the Earth yesterday.

The group claims that the demand for peat as a gardening product is ruining lowland peat lands such as Thorne and Hatfield moors in Yorkshire and threatening species such as sundews, sphagnum mosses and the nightjar.

Matt Phillips of Friends of the Earth, said: "Companies are ripping off our finest peatlands and wildlife is paying the price." He added that 18 sites of special scientific interest are under threat from the peat industry and only 6 per cent of lowland peatlands remain in a near-natural state.

The Royal Horticultural Society shares Friends of the Earth's concern about the use of peat and recommends that exhibitors at the Chelsea Flower Show use alternatives. Although most of these are effective, peat is highly desirable and widely used in commercial horticulture - it holds water well, it has a low content of organic nitrogen, it is slow to decompose and it stores well.

However, Alan Shaw of Levington's, a company based near Ipswich that produces peat, dismissed Friends of the Earth's claims. "We operate only on sites that have little or no conservation value," he said. Of the 70,000 hectares of lowland peatland, Mr Shaw said the peat industry works on only 5,000 acres.

A 55ft by 25ft garden containing 50 tonnes of materials will be moved from the Chelsea Flower Show to Scotland next week. The Freedom Garden, which is designed for the handicapped, blind and partially sighted, was the prize in a draw in Horticultural Week magazine. It was won by East Lothian District Council. The plants include lupins, hostas, bamboo and pine.

Nurses in hiding after cash deals

Freed pair whisked away as anger grows at tabloid payments, write

Joanna Bale and Stephen Farrell

THE two British nurses freed from jail in Saudi Arabia were whisked away to secret locations by two tabloid newspapers yesterday after arriving on an early-morning flight into Gatwick.

Lucille McLauchlan and Deborah Parry, who have signed £125,000 deals with *The Mirror* and *The Express*, were kept hidden after being given VIP treatment by airport authorities.

Dozens of news organisations waiting at Gatwick saw the nurses only fleetingly as they stepped off their British Airways flight from Dhahran at 5.30am and were taken to a VIP suite. Parry's sister, Sandra, and brother-in-law Jonathan Ashbee, met them along with newspaper representatives.

Parry, 39, was later led out with a blanket over her head and driven off to a secret destination, with photographers from rival newspapers attempting to follow on motorcycles.

McLauchlan, 32, is believed to have left in a helicopter hired by *The Mirror*, to be reunited with her husband Grant Ferris, whom she married in prison six months ago.

The women were released from prison in Dammam on Wednesday after being held for 17 months for the murder of Yvonne Gilford, a fellow nurse. King Fahd issued an order commuting their sentence, but their convictions have not been overturned.

Pat Dillon, who was on the same flight, said the nurses looked "relaxed and composed", breakfasting on pancakes and scrambled eggs in business class.

At the airport, their lawyers thanked the Saudi authorities and the Foreign Office. Rodger Parnone, representing Parry, said that she was "too exhausted" to give a press conference, failing to acknowledge that it would have not been permitted under the terms of her contract with *The Express*.

He added: "She wishes now

only to be with her family. The events of the last year and five months have been devastating. She maintains her total and absolute innocence of the charges and hopes in due course to be able to demonstrate that total innocence."

The women claim to have signed confessions only after they were threatened by Saudi police officers with violence and sexual abuse.

Mr Parnone was cautious not to offend the Saudis, who had granted the release after intense diplomatic activity between London and Riyadh.

He said: "Saudi Arabia is an important country and Islam is one of the world's great religions. Deborah respects the laws of Islam. She has no criticism of the overwhelming majority of the citizens of Saudi Arabia."

"She does, however, have an abhorrence of the treatment she and Lucille McLauchlan received at the hands of certain of the Saudi Arabian police and her inability to have a full and open trial."

Parry escaped beheading after Miss Gilford's brother, Frank, agreed to accept US\$1.1 million (£675,000) in so-called "blood money".

He attacked the nurses' newspaper deals, saying: "If anything is classed as blood money, I'd say that is blood money - cashing in on Yvonne's death."

Rosie Boycott, Editor of *Express Newspapers*, yesterday defended her deal with Parry. She said: "We did so, only after working closely with John Ware, the BBC *Panorama* journalist. Mr Ware, who has an unrivalled reputation for investigative journalism, believes that Deborah Parry suffered a gross miscarriage of justice."

The Labour MP, George Galloway, denounced the deals as "blood money" and has complained to the Press Complaints Commission.

The United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing said it was investigating the possibility of striking them off its



Deborah Parry talking about her time in a Saudi prison on the television programme *Panorama* last night

Confession claim backed

register. McLauchlan has been summoned to appear at Dundee Sheriff Court next month charged with stealing £1,740 from a dying Aids patient.

A nursing council spokesman said: "At present both are on the register and could be considered fit for practice. If a nurse is convicted abroad we have to gather our own evidence, and the hearing has the same standard of proof as a criminal court. Also when the case is abroad, someone has to make a complaint before we investigate."

Letters, page 23

TWO forensic experts have backed claims by the nurses that their confessions were extracted under duress, according to last night's *Panorama* documentary on BBC1 (Joanna Bale writes).

Ian Hill, a consultant at Guy's Hospital, London, said: "The confessions don't describe in any way, shape or form, the extent of the struggle which took place, nor do they mirror the pattern of injuries on the body." Eric Shepherd, a forensic psychol-

ogist, said that the confessions appeared to have been dictated because they were full of "forensic twaddle".

In her diary, Lucille McLauchlan says that the Saudi police offered her freedom if she named Deborah Parry as Yvonne Gilford's killer, which is what she did.

She admits that, with the help of the Saudi police, she convinced Parry that the only way out was to confess. Jonathan Ashbee, Parry's brother-in-law, told the programme:

"The police effectively bribed Lucy into convincing Debbie to follow her course of action because, as I understand it, Lucy's freedom was dependent upon her statement being accepted. For her statement to be accepted, Debbie had to say the same thing."

"We know that the Saudis have two files of statements where she says 'No, I'm not going to do this' and strikes a line through it. She takes another beating every time she does this."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Council sex case may be settled

The sex discrimination case brought by Amanda Kelly, the deputy chief executive of the London borough of Camden, against the council and Stephen Bundred, the chief executive, was adjourned yesterday after negotiations which are expected to lead to a settlement.

Ms Kelly, 41, who earns £83,000 a year, alleged at the industrial tribunal that she had been bullied and humiliated. The council would not confirm that she had been offered financial terms to leave.

Soldier arrested

A soldier has been arrested by military police investigating the alleged rape of a servicewoman. Lance Bombardier Kevin Melia, 27, from Leeds, also faces allegations of at least two indecent assaults and up to 28 indecent exposures in Cyprus.

Damages award

A diving instructor must pay £35,800 damages to the widow of a mother who died in an accident off Dorset in 1993. At the High Court it was ruled that Kevin White had been in breach of his duty of care to Paula Bacon, 23, but that there was contributory negligence.

Batting record

A cricket bat used in 1868 by W.G. Grace in a match when he was out for a duck in both innings fetched a world record £26,450 at Phillips in London. The price, twice the estimate, beat the previous highest of £23,000 for a bat used by Don Bradman in 1937.

CORRECTIONS

A leading article (May 19) wrongly quoted Sir John Kerr, FCO permanent under secretary. We should have said that Sir John told the Commons foreign affairs committee that conversations between Sandline and Foreign Office officials "were one way".

Major Sir Patrick Wall (obituary, May 19) was educated at Downside, not Ampleforth.

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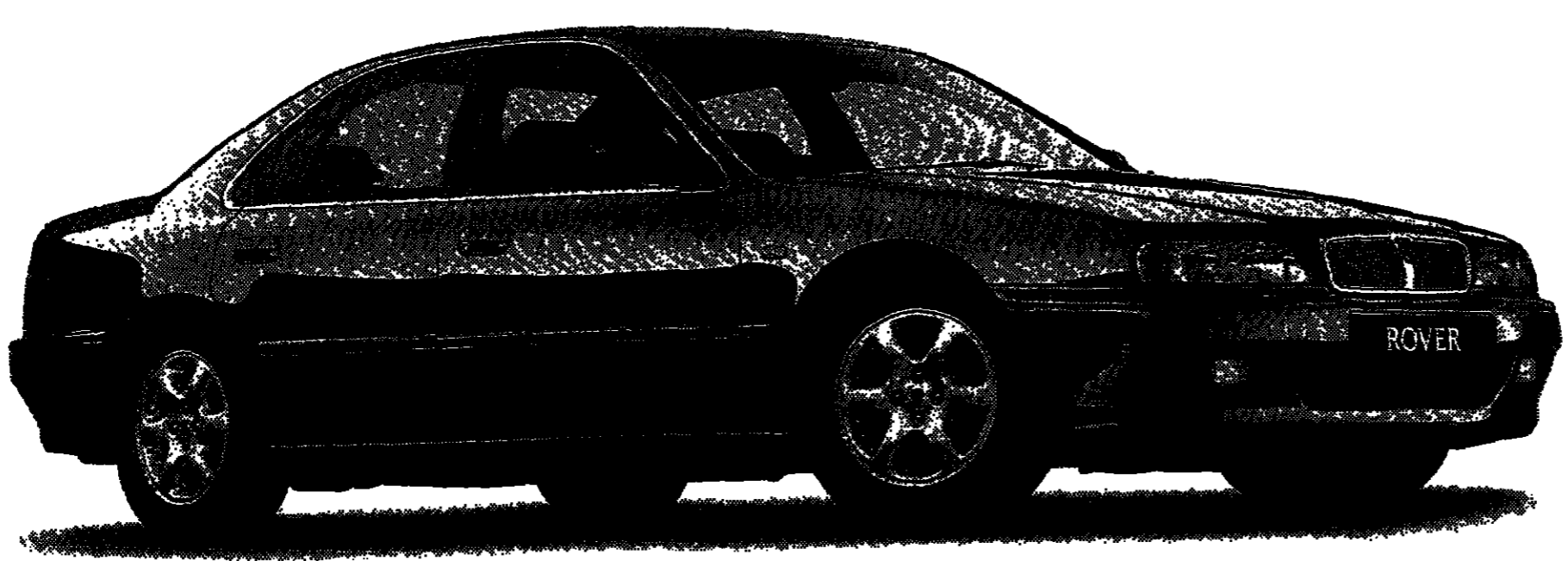
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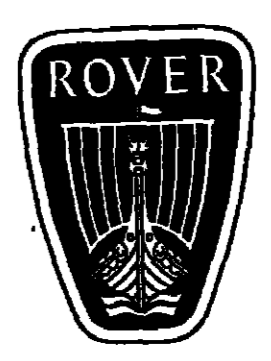
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Blair closes the book on trade union law

TONY BLAIR ruled out further legislation on trade unions for the rest of this Parliament yesterday. He said that the new rights for workers and family-friendly policies in the White Paper *Fairness at Work* were intended to "draw a line under the issue of industrial relations law".

The Prime Minister emphasised that the Government was keeping its promises to give workers the rights they deserved but said that there would be no return to the past. "The days of strikes without ballots, mass picketing, closed shops and second action are over," he said in a foreword.

The White Paper represents a severe defeat for the unions on the most controversial area of recognition in the workplace. At Mr Blair's insistence it imposes what many unions regard as an impossibly high hurdle — 40 per cent of those eligible to vote will have to vote for recognition before it will be granted.

But to compensate the unions for what some regard as a betrayal of a general election promise, workers were granted an array of new individual and collective rights, and measures to improve family life.

Individuals
The Government is cutting from two years to one year the period of employment that qualifies a person for protec-

Improved rights for workers and family-friendly policies are the mainstay of Labour's employment proposals, reports Philip Webster

that unions do not have to give employers the names of those they intend to consult.

Family policies
Men and women are to be granted a guaranteed three months of parental leave when they have a baby or adopt a child, and will be protected against dismissal for exercising their right.

Maternity leave is to be extended from 14 weeks to 18 weeks, bringing it into line with maternity pay.

There will be a right to reasonable time off for family emergencies such as a child's sickness for all workers regardless of length of service.

Mr Blair says of the package: "Even after the changes we propose Britain will have the most lightly regulated labour market of any leading economy in the world. But it cannot be just to deny British citizens basic canons of fairness — rights to claim unfair dismissal, rights against discrimination for making a free choice of being a union member, rights to unpaid parental leave — that are a matter of course elsewhere."

These proposals, together with the introduction of a minimum wage — set sensibly, implemented sensibly — put a very minimum infrastructure of decency and fairness around people in the workplace.

These proposals, together with the introduction of a minimum wage — set sensibly, implemented sensibly — put a very minimum infrastructure of decency and fairness around people in the workplace.

40 per cent of those eligible to vote, are in favour of recognition. Firms with fewer than 20 workers will be exempt.

In companies where more than 50 per cent of employees are union members recognition will be automatic because there is a clear demonstration that people want to be represented by the union for collective bargaining purposes.

Anyone dismissed for taking part in lawfully organised industrial action will have a right to make an unfair dismissal complaint to a tribunal. The tribunal will not consider the merits of the dispute but merely whether the employer has acted fairly and reasonably.

There will be a legal right for employees to be accompanied by a fellow employee or trade union representative of their choice during grievance and disciplinary procedures.

Discrimination against workers on the ground of their trade union activities will be outlawed.

The law on industrial action ballots will be changed so

Leading article, page 23



Holding the baby: parental duties are recognised

Families given a new sense of importance

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, SOCIAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

BY GRANTING employees three months unpaid parental leave and the right to take time off for family emergencies, the Government has given its strongest acknowledgment yet that there is a strong business case, as well as a moral and social one, for family-friendly policies.

The cost to British industry of employees taking time off to care or arrange care for a child or dependent relative has been put at £50 million by the Institute for Employment Studies, which also estimates the price of replacing disaffected employees at the equivalent of one year's annual salary.

Explaining the thinking behind the White Paper's family-friendly policies, Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, said yesterday: "We have to recognise the special responsibilities of parents. We place great demands on them. Many need to work to give their children a secure life. But children need their parents' time too."

The White Paper will give employees with one year's service the right to three months' unpaid parental leave when they have a baby or adopt a child, plus protec-

tion from dismissal for exercising this right. Parental leave, part of the European Social Charter to be adopted in December next year, will be able to be taken at any time up to the child's eighth birthday, full or part-time, in a single block or as an annual allowance.

Driven by enlightened self-interest, increasing number of employers are accepting that they will not be able to continue to operate effectively without doing more to accommodate the needs of employees who are also carers. There is also a growing awareness of the need to grant fathers more rights in respect of their children.

Dominic Johnson, head of employment relations at the CBI, welcomed the moves but said that small companies might find it difficult to implement them. In particular, problems could arise if a husband and wife working for a small company both wanted to take parental leave simultaneously. "We don't know enough yet about how small companies will be able to react to these measures," he said. "We will want to be assured that small companies are not left understaffed unreasonably."

Tribunal change will prompt rush

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

ALLOWING industrial tribunals award unlimited compensation for unfair dismissal is likely to prompt a new rush of cases by aggrieved employees.

Employers found in breach of the law could face huge bills. Industrial tribunal rulings last year are estimated to have cost companies a total of £250 million.

The number of industrial tribunal claims has soared in recent years from 12,325 in 1991/92 to 19,503 in 1995/96. One reason is the lifting of the cap of £11,000 on sex discrimination awards three years ago. Some huge payments followed, notably to women sacked from the Armed Forces for becoming pregnant. One received £400,000 and the total bill for the Ministry of Defence ran to £55 million. But average awards tend to be much lower, ranging between £3,000 and £6,000.

Industrial tribunals were set up to provide a swift and simple way to deal with a range of employment disputes. But they are no longer

simple and now have their own developed body of case law. Each side is usually represented by a lawyer.

The tribunal system hears a range of employment disputes from sex and racial discrimination to unfair dismissal claims and disputes over wages or breaches of contract.

The tribunals straddle two government departments. The chairman are lawyers and appointed by the Lord Chancellor. The other two members of each panel are appointed by the President of the Board of Trade. They represent the two sides of any employment dispute: one is recommended by an employers' organisation and the other by an employees' organisation. All tribunal members undergo training organised under the aegis of the Judicial Studies Board.

The awards are made within strict guidelines to cover an amount for such factors as injury to feelings, loss of pension rights and aggravated damages.

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Looking-glass campaign's final suspense

NO RADIO station in Britain has the current pulling power of BBC Radio Ulster. By 7.20am yesterday, Tony Blair, William Hague and Paddy Ashdown had spoken on it to urge support for the peace accord.

Northern Ireland's local newspapers carried personal messages from President Clinton. David Trimble, the private man who leads the Ulster Unionist Party, invited television cameras into his home to film his family eating breakfast. Roads were festooned with posters and the chief electoral officer has been flooded with calls from expatriate Ulster residents anxiously seeking postal votes.

It is the first election in Northern Ireland in which the population will vote across party and religious lines, and not simply to keep the other tradition out. With the South holding a simultaneous referendum, it will be the first all-Ireland vote since the 1918 general election, in which Sinn Fein won 73 of the 105 seats. Ireland was divided three years later.

In a Province where it has been a brief but extraordinary campaign, the Prime Minister has flown

Reputations are at stake as Ulster expects the unexpected, writes Martin Fletcher

back and forth and no chat show has seemed complete without him. The President of the United States was asked to stay away but imprisoned IRA and loyalist killers have played key roles. Those who have lost parents, husbands, wives and children to terrorists have been among the most passionate supporters of an accord that would let those terrorists free. This week, Mr Trimble and John Hume, the middle-aged leaders of Unionism and nationalism, performed a symbolic handshake before 2,000 screaming teenagers at a rock concert.

In a Province where it suddenly seems that almost anything is possible, Ian Paisley alone has stayed true to

type. He has barnstormed around Northern Ireland with apocalyptic warnings of Ulster's imminent consumption by the Papist South.

But an overwhelming Yes vote today would be still more remarkable. Sinn Fein would be acknowledging the legitimacy of a state that its IRA colleagues have spent 30 years trying to destroy. Unionists known for their no-surrender intransigence would be backing an accord that would admit Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness to Northern Ireland's Cabinet and see IRA terrorists released en masse.

Whether a majority of Unionists — perhaps 300,000 — will vote Yes is the big unknown, but without that majority the new political structures would almost certainly prove unworkable.

A week ago, that majority seemed almost unattainable. Mr Trimble's campaign was insipid, fragmented and tired. The triumphant appearance of the IRA's Balcombe Street gang at Sinn Fein's conference drove thousands of wavering Unionists straight into Mr Paisley's hands.

Mr Trimble looked politically dead, yet another Unionist leader — like Terence O'Neill and Brian Faulkner — who paid the ultimate price for daring to accommodate the enemy.

But Tuesday's rock concert, Mr Blair's Herculean efforts and Mr Trimble's coolness under fire all helped to turn the tide. The last polls showed those crucial battalions of undecided Unionists tilting towards the Yes camp.

In that case, it will be Mr Paisley — with Bob McCartney, the UK Unionist Party leader, and dissident UUP MPs — who will face political obscurity.

Letters, page 23



Tony Blair at Ulster Hospital, Belfast, yesterday

WHAT THE VOTE WILL MEAN

The almost unanimous support of nationalists and independents guarantees an overall majority in favour of the Good Friday accord today. However, a Unionist majority is also crucial if the new political structures are to work.

An overall vote above 70 per cent would strongly suggest a majority in each tradition has supported the agreement and its supporters could look forward with confidence to the next step, which is the June 25 elections to Northern Ireland's new assembly.

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, would have the authority to take on the rebels in his party, and to lean on the UUP's constituency associations to select only supporters of the agreement as candidates for the assembly.

The political future of the Rev Ian Paisley, the ageing Democratic Unionist Party leader, Robert McCartney, the UK Unionist Party leader, and the six UUP MPs who opposed the agreement would be bleak. They would presumably fight on in the hope that some unforeseen event — such as a resurgence of republican violence — might drive more Unionists into their camp before June 25.

In Northern Ireland's last three elections, Unionists have accounted for 51 per cent of the total vote, nationalists 38 and independents 11. A final poll in yesterday's Irish Times showed 96 per cent nationalist support.

An overall majority of about 65 per cent would resolve nothing as neither the Yes camp nor the No camp could convincingly claim victory.

Constituency associations would select a mixture of supporters and opponents of the agreement to stand for the assembly, and the debilitating battle for the soul of Unionism would continue for five more weeks.

Some government officials argue that the No camp should recognise that an overall majority of the people of Northern Ireland had voted in favour of the accord, and accept that democratic verdict, but there is little chance of that happening.

A mere 60 per cent majority would be grim news for both the agreement and Mr Trimble.

Most Unionists would clearly have voted No. That means opponents of the assembly would enter the election campaign with all the momentum on their side. They would, if elected in sufficient numbers, have the power to subvert the assembly — and by extension the new cross-border bodies — because few decisions can be taken without a majority in each tradition.

There is a precedent. After the Sunningdale agreement in 1973, the assembly contained more Unionist opponents of the deal than supporters, though it was in fact a general strike that eventually brought down Brian Faulkner's power-sharing executive.

Mr Trimble's own position as party leader would almost certainly become untenable, and his resignation only a matter of time. A formal split in the UUP, and a major realignment of Unionism, would also be on the cards, with Jeffrey Donaldson, Mr McCartney or Dr Paisley's deputy, Peter Robinson, vying to become its new leader.

A majority below 60 per cent would represent outright defeat. The Government has to press on with the elections, hoping that Unionist voters might reconsider, but the assembly would almost certainly be impermanent from the outset. Mr Trimble would be gone, and moderate Unionists routed. "Plan B is, we just have to pick up the pieces," Tony Blair told a radio show this week, but exactly how that could be done is anyone's guess.

Yesterday's Irish Times poll showed 40 per cent of Unionists planning to vote Yes, 43 per cent No, and 17 per cent undecided. The equivalent figures one week earlier were 35, 45 and 20.

Northern Ireland's total electorate is 1,175,741. Experts predict a turnout as high as 80 per cent. There are 1,228 polling stations spread across the 18 constituencies and they will be open from 7am to 10pm. The ballot boxes will be taken to the King's Hall in Belfast overnight and Pat Bradley, the chief electoral officer, will announce the result tomorrow afternoon.

Quiet revolution in the Republic

By Audrey Magee

OLD enmities will be pushed to the background as the Irish go to the polls today. They are expected to agree by a huge margin to drop their territorial claim to Northern Ireland, replacing Articles Two and Three of the Irish Constitution with an aspiration for a United Ireland secured only with the consent of people in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

The amendment is expected to be endorsed by more than 70 per cent of voters, sweeping aside the Republic's often bitter differences over Northern Ireland in a quiet revolution. Mr Ahern's Fianna Fail is now standing side by side with its own Fine Gael enemy on the Northern question. In the civil war of 1922 the two parties fought

bitterly after Michael Collins returned from London with the Anglo-Irish agreement that left six counties in Ulster under direct British rule.

There was some initial dissent among hardline Republican elements of Fianna Fail at the changes to Articles Two and Three but this was quickly stamped out by Mr Ahern.

All parties in the Dail are calling for a Yes vote. Mr Ahern said yesterday it was a unique opportunity for peace. "Everyone who goes out to vote will play their part in making history. Those who decide to vote No or not to vote at all should examine their consciences now so that they do not have to examine them in years to come," he said.

Frenetic burst designed to sway waverers

By Martin Fletcher and Audrey Magee

TONY BLAIR extended his visit to Northern Ireland by several hours yesterday in a final frenetic burst of campaigning aimed at swaying thousands of wavering Unionists.

The Prime Minister missed a Cabinet meeting as he hopped around the Province by helicopter to bolster the accord that is his Government's proudest achievement. "Don't squander the best chance in generations to

build a decent future," he begged. But last night the leader of the 60,000-strong Orange Order joined eight Unionist MPs to pledge their "resolute and determined opposition".

David Trimble had an upbeat end to his campaign yesterday when he went on walkabout with a former RUC chief constable known for being tough on terrorists. U2 may have enhanced Mr Trimble's street credibility, but Sir John Hermon was the man to convince Ulster's middle-class Unionists to vote Yes, despite their worries about prison-

er releases and RUC reform. In common with many Unionists, Sir John agonised for weeks over the Good Friday peace agreement. He read every newspaper article, listened to each debate and, after many sleepless nights, decided to support it.

Sir John, who retired in 1989, said: "I believe the only way is a resounding Yes to make this the second Good Friday year."

The Yes camp enjoyed another boost when Robin Eames, Primate of the Protestant Church of Ireland, an-

nounced that after great agonising, he had decided to back the accord. "None of us want the grandchildren of Northern Ireland, let alone the children of Northern Ireland, to live their lives as so many of us have had to live ours," he said.

Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, insisted republicans had "no wish to discriminate against Unionists, to dominate or marginalise or drive Unionists from this island and make Unionists second-class citizens in the land of their birth".



Trimble had upbeat end to his campaign

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Conservatives are right to state their case on voting reforms

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

THE Tories are right to be worried about the commission on the voting system under Lord Jenkins of Hillhead. Any shift away from first past the post could have a far greater impact in reshaping the British political system than the rest of the Government's constitutional reform programme put together. And it could be to the Tories' lasting disadvantage. That, at any rate, is what Conservative Central Office fears, and is the biggest attraction for a still sceptical Tony Blair.

Yesterday, is the most comprehensive statement so far in defence of the existing system and against proportional representation. Many of the arguments are inevitably subjective. There is no right electoral system for all time and all circumstances. That is partly because electoral systems have to fulfil several roles - linking the balance of votes cast to the balance of MPs elected (proportionality), providing voters with a choice, producing stable government and maintaining a link between MPs and voters in individual constituencies. These are the criteria that Lord Jenkins and his commission

are having to reconcile, and which the Conservative Party claims are best satisfied by the present arrangements. The Tories put their own distinctive twist on the definition of proportionality - comparing a party's share of the vote with the amount of time it has been in office and measuring "what really matters, proportionality of power rather than seats". This is an intriguing debating point, though it does not do anything for third parties and is unlikely to persuade

many. The Tories point to some of the disadvantages of the various versions of the alternative or supplementary vote. But for all Lord Parkinson's "huffing and puffing" about a rigged body with a rigged remit, the Tories are not really part of the debate. The Jenkins commission was set up to honour a promise made by the Labour leadership to the Liberal Democrats before the election. It was never supposed to be a detached inquiry into the voting system. It was always

intended to come up with an alternative to first past the post that could be sold both to Labour and the Lib Dems, as well as, later, to the public generally in the promised referendum. Although the Tories may not expect their defence of first past the post to sway the commission, they do want to influence how any recommendations are subsequently handled. They argue that a referendum should be held after detailed legislation has been taken through the Commons rather than before, as the Blair Government has done with Scottish and Welsh devolution and the plan for an

elected mayor and assembly for London. Pre-legislative referendums can, and are often intended, to short-circuit proper parliamentary scrutiny. Moreover, the Tories are also on strong ground in arguing that any referendum should be conducted in an evenhanded way. In recent referendums, the Government has issued material at public expense that was, in practice, helpful to one side of the argument. This may have made no difference in Scotland or London but it may have helped to tip the balance in Wales. By contrast, in the Northern Ireland referendum, free postal

communications have been provided for both sides. Next to entering a single currency, the decision on the voting system is the trickiest, and most important, that the Government will face in this Parliament. The Tories currently seem to be a voice on the sidelines, shouting to not much effect. But when a referendum is held, their defence of first past the post could be more influential. As Mr Blair's advisers are well aware, the outcome is far from assured. The Tories are right to get involved.

PETER RIDDELL

Queen 'understands bitterness of PoWs'

Protests during Emperor's visit will be accepted, reports Alan Hamilton

THE Queen recognises the depth of anti-Japanese feeling among some former prisoners of war, and will not be embarrassed if they demonstrate while she entertains Emperor Akihito on a state visit next week. Buckingham Palace said yesterday. Palace officials said that both the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh fully supported reconciliation with modern Japan, but they understood the bitterness of some veterans, both military and civilian, who continue to campaign for improved compensation for their ordeal during the Second World War, and for a fuller apology from the Japanese Government. Some members of the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors' Association and its parallel organisation for civilian internees, which between them claim 12,000 members, plan to turn their backs on the Jap-

anese royals as they ride down The Mall in open carriages at the start of their four-day state visit on Tuesday. They have also threatened to stage peaceful protests at other venues on the royal schedule. The Foreign Office, which is placing great importance on the Japanese visit, said yesterday that Far East veterans were free to make their views known, but hoped that protests would be dignified. "Good relations with Japan today would not have been possible without the extraordinary sacrifices made during the war by PoWs and civilian internees. We know that today's generation must never forget that debt that they owe to their grandfathers. But we have also got to look forward: Britain and Japan are building a new relationship," a spokesman said. In formal speeches at the state banquet at Buckingham

Palace on Tuesday night, both the Queen and the Emperor will make reference to the past, but there will be no apology from Emperor Akihito; instead he will make a reference to the need for understanding of the depth of pain felt by former enemies. Veterans will be represented at the banquet by Air Marshal Sir Roger Austin, president of the Royal British Legion, and members of the Burma Campaign Fellowship Group, who are in favour of reconciliation with the Japanese. The Emperor is precluded by the Japanese Constitution from making apologies or any other political statements. More importantly, Tony Blair has fully accepted the apology for wartime suffering made to him during his visit to Tokyo in January, and repeated by the Japanese Prime Minister in The Sun. The Government has also

accepted that the PoWs' continuing efforts in the Japanese courts to secure improved compensation are likely to fail, despite new evidence produced recently by the campaigners that a government decision robbed them of much higher compensation than the £76 per head they received under the 1952 San Francisco peace treaty. A Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday: "In 1955 the government of the day decided not to pursue the claim for improved compensation. Today, our clear legal advice says that the lapse of time since then bars us from pursuing it any further."



Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in Aberdeen yesterday, where she named the Scotia, a research ship

Benefit officers to track down elderly in need

By POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

PENSIONERS who fail to claim the income support to which they are entitled are being tracked down and offered the benefit as part of efforts to reduce poverty among the elderly. Officials telephone, write to or visit those identified, who are advised to make an application. The system, which is part of a wider campaign to encourage higher take-up of income support among the elderly, is being tested in nine areas and could begin operating nationally towards the end of this year. Information held on local authority computers - which shows, for example, whether

someone receives housing benefit - is compared with that on the Benefits Agency's files, which shows who is claiming payments such as attendance allowance. Harriet Harman, the Social Security Secretary, hopes that officials can match up the two sets of data to identify poor people who have not made a claim for income support. Speaking at Westminster members of the Fawcett Society, which campaigns for equality between women and men, Ms Harman said: "We are hoping to find out who these people are who are living below the poverty line. In many cases, we find out

when it says on their death certificate 'hypothermia'." Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, has said that he wants to guarantee "a decent income" for all retired people, prompting speculation that the Government will eventually introduce means-testing for the basic state pension in order to concentrate resources on those with incomes below a certain level. There are thought to be over a million pensioners who are entitled to income support but do not claim it: about 700,000 are women living on their own, and 120,000 are men on their own. The average not claimed is £16.10 a week.

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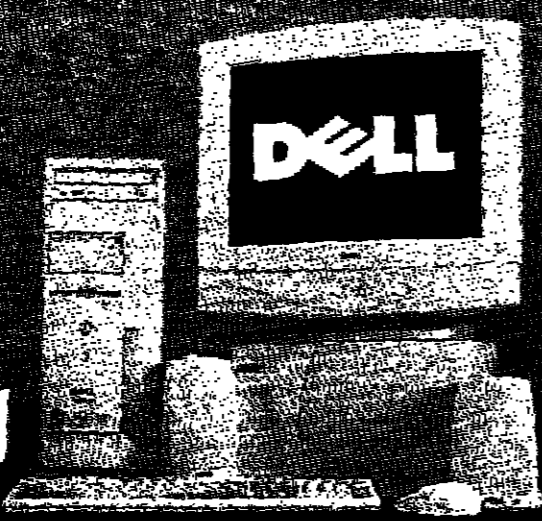
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INDONESIA: NEW LEADER PROMISES CHANGE
'Puppet' replaces master

The chances of reform by an arch-crony are slim, writes David Watts



Students celebrate in a fountain outside parliament in Jakarta yesterday after hearing of Suharto's resignation

JUSUF HABIBIE, Indonesia's new President, promised his people clean government and no let-up in political reform when he addressed his shell-shocked country, which was still trying to absorb a night of breathtaking politics. Echoing a key opposition slogan, he promised an end to collusion, corruption and nepotism and said he would appoint a Cabinet that was "professional, dedicated and with high integrity". The vow came after a day in which students had celebrated with near-hysterical delight. They claimed victory over President Suharto, but the International Monetary Fund's announcement that it would give no more help to Indonesia while chaos reigned was probably decisive.

The new President signalled to the IMF that he would abide by its recommendations for the \$24.5 billion rescue package that the organisation has been trying to implement. When his candidacy as Vice-President was mooted in January, the rupiah plunged to a record low of 17,000 to the dollar. If the thousands outside parliament were delighted, cooler heads wondered how much would change. "We've got the puppet instead of the puppetmaster," said a student of political science. It had dawned on him that Dr Habibie had been careful to point out in his pre-recorded television address that the country would adhere to its present ideology, which prevents the formation of political organisations.

The new President reiterated his predecessor's promises of changes to electoral law but gave no indication that any elections would take place before his term of office ends in 2003. He also promised to review tough laws on subversion and there were already indications last night that some political prisoners might be released.

With a nod in the direction of the students, whose demon-

strations had helped to maintain the focus of world television, he said their struggle "in speeding up the process of reform constitutes a fresh breeze that is going to enter the 21st century". Heavy troop deployments outside parliament showed careful representation from all main branches of the military — presumably to back up the statement from General Wiranto, the Chief of Staff, who had taken the microphone

after President Suharto's resignation speech to assure the nation that the armed forces were united behind Dr Habibie, and to appeal for calm. They may, however, have been keeping an eye on each other in a new period of uncertainty.

The immediate impact of Dr Habibie's elevation is to strengthen the hand of Lieutenant-General Prabowo Subianto, son-in-law of Mr Suharto, who commands the most effective troops — the special forces. General Wiranto was more dependent on the outgoing President's patronage. The new President's power base appears to be largely with Muslim intellectuals and some businessmen, but he has been no favourite of the military.

It will take all of Dr Habibie's powers of persuasion to convince Indonesians that he is going to run a different type of government, and all the expertise his German education can provide to pull his country out of what has been widely seen as a terminal nosedive.



Habibie is sworn in as acting President

Successor 'must not cling on to power'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE United States said yesterday that Jusuf Habibie would not last long as Indonesia's President, and that the fate of the world's fourth most populous nation now rested in the hands of its military leaders.

President Clinton, in the first official response to Suharto's resignation as head of state, urged the country to embrace the opportunity to move towards Western-style democracy. "We urge Indonesia's leaders to move forward promptly with a peaceful process that enjoys broad public support. The United States stands ready to support Indonesia as it engages in democratic change."

The US President's carefully worded statement was intended to send a deliberate message to Dr Habibie that the United States opposed his plan to complete Mr Su-

AMERICA

harto's term and remain in power until the end of 2003. Officials in Washington said that Dr Habibie's unorthodox economic views and close association with Mr Suharto would exclude him from any long-term role as President.

"We have to look beyond Habibie because no one will accept him as President for more than a short time," an official said. "We don't see this as the end of the process, but the beginning. A handful of generals will determine what happens now."

Indonesia's future, he added, might now involve a battle, played out either on the streets or in the corridors of the military headquarters, between General Wiranto, the Defence Minister, and General Prabowo, the headline head of an elite army corps and Mr Suharto's son-in-law.

Collapse unnerves leaders in Asia

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN HONG KONG AND ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

THE fall of Suharto sent a chill through hardline regimes across Asia, from China to Burma. Diplomats and analysts said Malaysia and Singapore were not immune, and had lessons to learn.

Beijing's anxiety has been made clear by sparse press and television coverage in China of the Indonesian uprising. No footage of student demonstrations has been shown for fear of evoking memories of the pro-democracy movement and its bloody end in Tiananmen Square in June 1989. One analyst said Mr Suharto's exit was a nightmare for the Communist Party. "No wonder Beijing is

REACTION

playing down the story for internal consumption."

Burma is Asia's most repressive totalitarian regime, and the generals in Rangoon who ruthlessly crushed student revolts in the late 1980s must worry about the way Mr Suharto fell. The regime's opponents, inspired by Aung San Suu Kyi, whose National League for Democracy won elections but was not allowed to take power, will take heart.

Malaysia has the same kind of crony capitalism as Indonesia and similar economic weaknesses. Singapore, though not corrupt economically, has had its vulnerability exposed to the economic and political fortunes of larger neighbours.

Exiled activists from East Timor, annexed by Indonesia in 1975 at the cost of as many as 200,000 lives, were encouraged by Mr Suharto's fall. Rob Wesley-Smith, spokesman for Australians for a Free East Timor, said: "All power to the students who made this happen. But it's not all finished."

Habibie is not a friend of East Timor. I hope he won't be there very long and genuine democracy can reach Indonesia and East Timor."

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INDONESIA: SUHARTO'S THREE DECADES OF POWER

Harsh legacy of tyrant who drove his people too far

JUST as he came to power 32 years ago on the back of a political and economic crisis, so President Suharto's dictatorship ended with his country on the verge of economic disintegration, but with the hope of political reform.



Suharto, at his swearing-in in 1967, left, inherited a country in crisis. After 32 years it still is, writes David Watts

"Smiling General" helped to transform his country from an anti-Western client state of the Soviet Union to a booming oil producer that the World Bank held up as a model of development.

By President Suharto, his cronies, his wife Tien and six children were soon unable to distinguish between their own and the country's resources. Mr. Suharto became known as Ars Ten Per Cent and absolute power corrupted the first family absolutely.

Born near the ancient city of Yogyakarta, Mr. Suharto had little education but soon made his mark in the army, rising to command the key strategic forces in Jakarta after service under the Japanese in the war.

During the early 1960s he helped to put down a left-wing revolt in Madiun, central Java, which was quelled with such force that it established the repressive credentials of the Indonesian military. That reputation has helped to cow a country more than 3,000 miles from west to east and with thousands of islands.

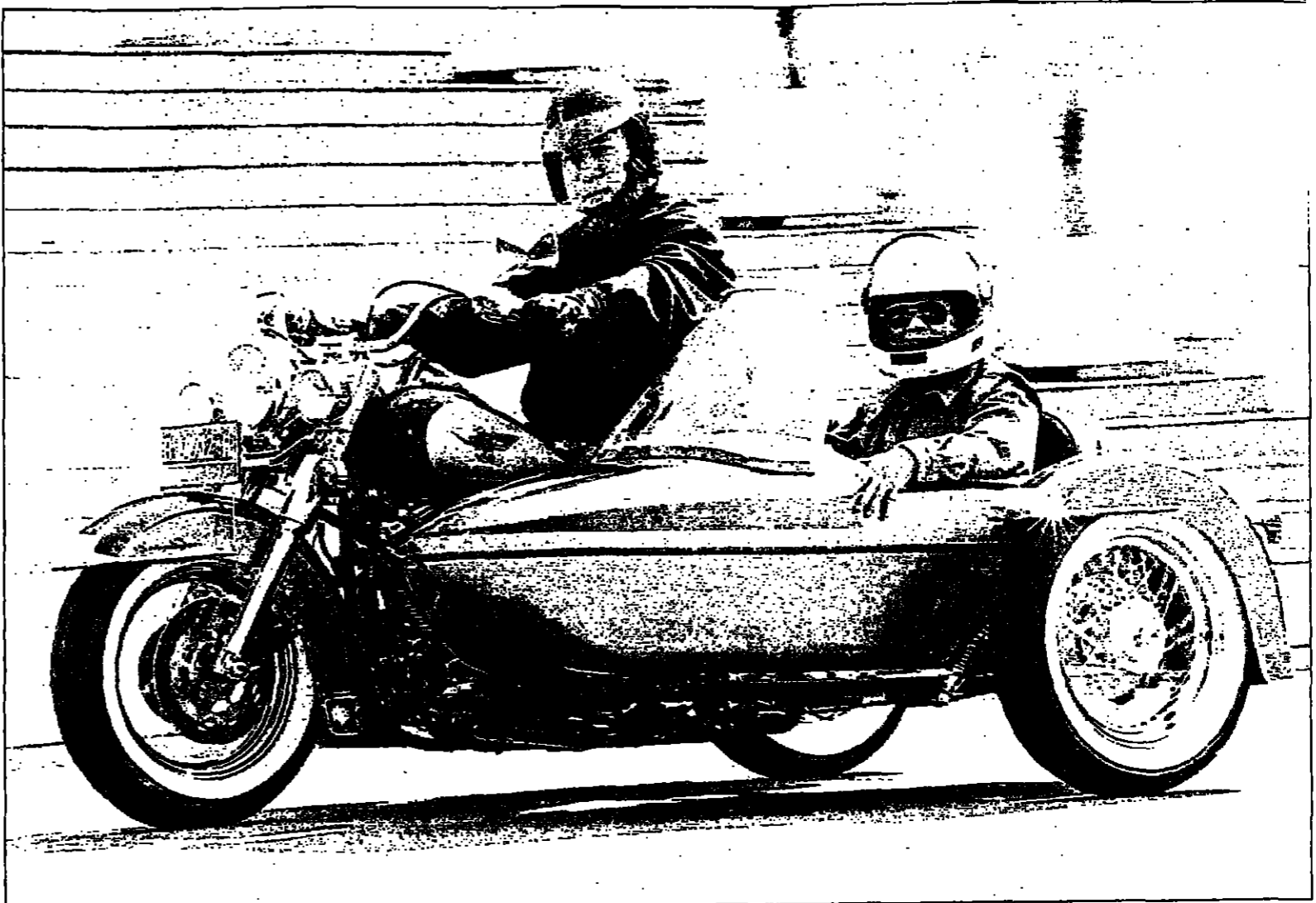
generals in 1965 in an intra-army coup which was blamed on the Communist Party. Colonel Suharto found himself the most senior officer in the capital, with sufficient troops under his command to seize control of the army. With a skillful ruse he got the then President Sukarno out of the capital and took control.

In the subsequent blood-bath, up to one million people were killed, the rivers of Bali were choked with bodies and thousands more disappeared into jails. A book published recently in the United States suggests that America had a hand in the purge of communists and leftwingers, using Filipinos to do their share of the killing along with students who were then in alliance with

the armed forces. Even in the past few years, President Suharto had continued to execute people detained then.

His New Order Government got the country off its knees: until the oil boom in the 1970s, average income was about £35 a year. But in 1975, with a green light from both London and Henry Kissinger, the US Secretary of State, Mr. Suharto ordered his army into East Timor, then an orphan of Portugal's democratic revolution which had been abandoned to its fate.

President Suharto thought it was about to fall into the hands of a left-wing or communist government which would provide an infiltration route for Beijing. It was a decision which has haunted



President Suharto firmly in the driving seat in 1996, with Jusuf Habibie, his Vice-President, by his side, outside the state palace in Jakarta

the Suharto Government. It has caused huge loss of prestige for a country which professed to be a champion of the underprivileged and hosted the Bandung meeting in 1955 that launched the Non-Aligned Movement.

Mr Suharto's rule, though, was delivering the goods for the people in the cities while the peasants were, in any case, in awe of the mystical powers of this Javanese "king". He is rumoured to be the illegitimate son of a former Sultan of Yogyakarta. Whether that is true or not, his wife is certainly of royal blood from the Solo court, also in central Java.

During the Cold War, the generals were able to use the country's strategic position on major East-West oil, trade and transit routes for the Soviet Navy to win military assistance and political sympathy from Western countries.

By 1984 Indonesia was able to export rice. President Suharto saw no need to change his ways, with annual growth rates of 8 per cent and praise from Western development experts.

Any attempt at establishing a political opposition was crushed, and novelists, journalists and playwrights jailed or their publications banned. But what helped to build up a fractious country of 200 million people could not sustain it as it reached maturity. His legacy, and the price the country will pay for his shortsightedness, is a badly damaged capital, the prospect of hunger for millions; an uncertain political future; and state and private sector debts of more than \$1 billion (£600 million), with net revenues from natural resources of \$20 billion at most.



Bali's traditional sights are not luring foreigners

Holiday paradise smiles and waits for visitors' return

FROM KEVIN MORRISON IN KUTA

THE elderly couple from Ealing west London, seemed surprised when their waiter mentioned the bloodshed in Jakarta. "How long is this trouble been going on then?" asked the woman. "I've not heard anything about it."

The empty tables in the hotel restaurant should have tipped her off. The sun-kissed island of Bali has escaped the violence elsewhere in Indonesia, but its effects are still plain to see.

Since Australian surfers discovered its rolling waves and crystal waters in the 1950s, the mainly Hindu island of Bali has undergone a drastic transformation.

Australian visitors have been joined by package holiday tourists from Europe, Ala and North America. They were welcomed by famposly warm Balinese smiles and brought prosperity to an otherwise neglected part of the sprawling Indonesian archipelago.

The Balinese smiles are still there, but they mask deep concern for the future as neighbouring Java is gripped by unrest. Over the past three decades, Bali has turned from a farming economy to one

where most of its four million people make their living from tourism, directly through hotels and restaurants or indirectly through making garments and souvenirs.

Now many of Bali's hotels and losmans, small family-run places to stay, lie almost empty and restaurants boast more staff than customers for most of the day as tourists numbers, already at a seasonal low, are hit by reports of the Indonesian crisis.

A walk through Kuta, Bali's tourist centre, takes one past endless rows of shopkeepers standing around, flagging down the occasional tourist. Most visitors just walk on by. It has become a paradise for the budget traveller. Restaurants in the nearby resort town of Sanur, where there are rows of empty tables, offer a fish curry or a chicken satay dish for under 10,000 rupiah (60p). A beer will cost even less and a day-long taxi-ride around the island costs £3.60.

Ask a Balinese restaurant owner why his place is so quiet and the answer is: "Maybe because of problems in Jakarta. But Bali has no problems. The Balinese are still smiling." (Reuters)

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INDONESIA: THE AFTERSHOCKS OF SUHARTO'S DEPARTURE

Asia's despots fear spreading seeds of chaos

COMMENTARY
DOMINICK DONALD

Suharto has fallen. The appointment of his successor fails to inspire confidence. Let us imagine the worst possible outcome of this crisis.

The rupiah continues to fall, bankruptcies soar and tens of thousands are laid off. The International Monetary Fund insists on an end to food subsidies, the price of staples soars, and the poor return to the streets. The ethnic Chinese business community is the target of pogroms. The Chinese community tries to realise its plummeting assets, setting off a crisis of confidence. Meanwhile, the Indonesian military intervenes to restore order and protect its Chinese business partners, and as a nation of 200 million descends into civil war fear and poverty will eat at the heart of the country.

Tiny Singapore is swamped. The chaos sets off a regional economic crisis. Rigid, paternalistic, "Asian Way" governments are too unresponsive to react and suddenly have to deal with their own mass protests. As East Timor tries to break free, Indonesian repression places huge pressure on Australia to intervene; China makes menacing moves towards the oil-rich Spratly Islands and demands protection for its hunted diaspora; the US is obliged to respond with carrier battle groups.

Could it happen? The fall of Mr Suharto has the potential to destabilise the whole region. The ripples of Indonesia's only other handover of power — the "Year of Living Dangerously" of 1965-66 — saw at least 500,000 deaths. But the straitjacket of the Cold War, and South-East Asia's comparative poverty, limited its regional political consequences to a setback for communism and an end to confrontation — Indonesia's low-level war against Malaysia.

This time, the potential for chaos is much greater. As the East Asian economic crisis of the last six months has shown, panic crosses boundaries. South-East Asia's leaders are a conservative breed, terrified of uncertainty and jealous of their authority. For most of them, the illusion of power is at least as important as its reality. All more or less shared Mr Suharto's implicit compact — economic prosperity and political stability in return for support for governments of varying legitimacy.

All, bar Singapore, have failed to deliver their side of the bargain. Mr Suharto's resignation undermines them all. Most worried will be Malaysia's Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. The financial crisis left him looking querulous and weak, as he blamed everyone but himself for Malaysia's misfortunes. His reactions to Indonesian developments have shown him to be out of touch.

Every other country in the region has varying degrees of democratic safety valves for dissent. Indonesia does not. The crucial moment for the region will be when the new President of Indonesia, Jusuf Habibie, announces his Cabinet. No one — perhaps not even Dr Habibie himself — expects him to stay for long.

He is loathed by the army, seen as Mr Suharto's lapdog by the Opposition, and mistrusted by the international financial institutions whose support is essential to arresting economic meltdown.

With a special responsibility for the preservation of Indonesian unity, 15 per cent of the seats in the national parliament, and an administrative presence in every district, it is the army which really matters. Once the military decided that Mr Suharto had to go, the army made sure the handover was constitutional.

Yet if Dr Habibie is a fig-leaf, who will take his place? It is likely that whoever is appointed to the Vice-President's slot is the President-in-waiting. He will have to have the confidence of the IMF, little taint of corruption, and beyond Mr Suharto's reach.

Above all, he will have to have legitimacy. Only a technocratic, moderately inclusive Cabinet, with a strong President ready to listen, can offer Indonesia the stability the region craves. The popular, uncorrupt Army Chief of Staff Wiranto is described as quick thinking and a good listener. Could he be the next Vice-President?



Ex-President Suharto with family members during the pilgrimage to Mecca last year. The Saudi Arabian Government could offer him haven, out of Islamic solidarity

No obvious bolt-hole for exiles

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

FAMILY

GOVERNMENTS around the world were looking apprehensively last night at the chances of former President Suharto asking for refuge, aware of the heavy price paid by those countries that sheltered the Shah of Iran after he fled into exile.

No country has yet offered to admit the former leader. Speculation centred on Western nations that have been most closely involved with Indonesia and might be willing to grant him swift entry to calm the turmoil in Jakarta. But there is worry that the claims for billions of dollars pursuing Mr Suharto may unleash a virulent campaign against any country that takes him in.

Germany emerged as the most likely refuge. Helmut Kohl is the Western leader who had the closest personal rapport with Mr Suharto, and in the past few weeks telephoned him almost every day to urge a peaceful transition.

Germany has the biggest European investment in Indonesia, and Jusuf Habibie, the new President, spent 20 years in Germany. German public opinion might be outraged, but the Kohl Government could argue that Germany, now expected to play a bigger role on the world stage, would be helping its Western allies by taking in Mr Suharto.

Britain has been mentioned as a possible destination, as the Suharto family owns several houses here. But British diplomats poured cold water on any speculation, saying no application for a residence permit had been received. Britain has rarely sheltered fleeing dictators, and the Lab-

our Government, under attack for the continued sale of arms to Indonesia, would be extremely reluctant to admit the former leader.

France, however, has a more open door, especially to francophone dictators. It admitted former President Duvalier of Haiti and Emperor Bokassa of the Central African Republic, both of

whom brought large sums of money with them. Mobutu Sese Seko, the former dictator of Zaire, had houses in France, Belgium and Switzerland, though he finally fled to Morocco.

Mr Suharto is unlikely to seek refuge in The Netherlands, the former colonial power in Indonesia. The United States, the first destination of the exiled Shah, would be reluctant to put itself in danger of reprisals should the public

mood in Indonesia demand retribution against Mr Suharto. But Hawaii might be sufficiently remote, and the precedent of former President Marcos's exile there, hastily arranged to stop the outbreak of civil war in the Philippines, might encourage Mr Suharto to look to America.

Fellow Muslim countries could also come to his rescue. He would be unacceptable to his neighbours, especially Malaysia, as his continued pres-

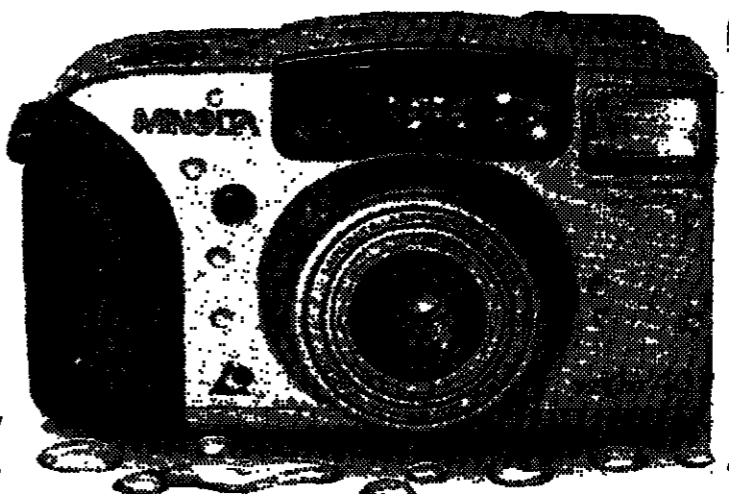
ence in the region would be destabilising. But the Middle East would not cause the same difficulties. Saudi Arabia could make such a gesture out of Islamic solidarity; it admitted Idi Amin after he was forced out of Uganda.

Whoever accepts Mr Suharto will probably have to admit his family. This is the main risk, as four of his children own huge chunks of the Indonesian economy, and will certainly try to take their

wealth with them. The hunt will now start for the bulk of Mr Suharto's fortune. Switzerland is no longer the haven it was. According to Indonesia's figures, Mr Suharto's sons were the eighth, ninth and 14th largest taxpayer last year. The American magazine *Forbes* estimated him to be worth \$16 billion (£10 billion) — about \$3 billion more than the total package that was offered by the International Monetary Fund.

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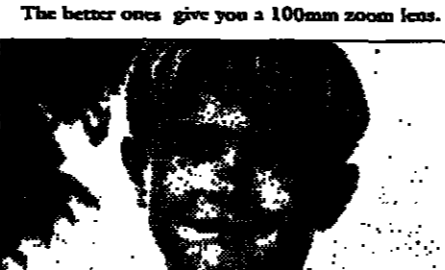
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FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

Clinton will order the... DENT Clinton will order the... Clinton is concerned that... infrastructure — such as networks, transport, financial systems and telecommunications — is vulnerable to attacks by... bomb squads and to

"cyber-terrorism" aimed at computer data links. He will appoint the first anti-terrorism "czar" to co-ordinate efforts among government departments and to emphasise the post-Cold War shift from armed forces ranged against one another to non-traditional threats from rogue nations, small guerrilla bands and terrorist groups. The job will go to Richard Clarke, who has been senior director for global affairs on the National Security Council. The President was spurred to move swiftly in preparing to combat potential threats after discussions with other leaders at the Group of

Eight summit in Birmingham and advice from a panel of specialists on the poor condition of America's defenses against biological and chemical warfare. Three terrorist attacks during Mr Clinton's presidency have brought home to him the changing nature of security threats: the bombings of the World Trade Centre in New York and the federal building in Oklahoma City, and the nerve-gas attack in the Tokyo underground that killed 12 commuters and injured 5,000. All were unexpected and the work of disaffected extremists. The specialists urged Mr Clinton to begin the vaccine stockpile programme initially for those responding to attacks, such as firefighters, police and medical crews. Eventually, there must also be sufficient back-up doses for the public. Such a programme will cost billions of dollars and take years of expensive training before sufficient levels of protection can be assured. Smallpox and anthrax are considered among the biggest potential threats. Anthrax is treatable when caught early and there are already plans to inoculate all serving members of the US armed forces against it. Eight million smallpox vaccine doses are in storage. Plague and botulinum toxin are two other

agents against which protection has been recommended. Louis Freeh, the FBI Director, has told Congress of the need for more training of local officials to confront attacks by chemical or biological weapons. So far, only 23 of 120 cities chosen for the training have undergone it. There is also a need for regional laboratories where suspected toxic materials can be analysed quickly. This shortcoming was illustrated in Las Vegas in February when two men were arrested on suspicion of having weapons-grade anthrax spores. The charges were dropped five days later when the material

was found to be harmless, but the episode was a "dress rehearsal" that conveyed important lessons, Mr Freeh said. As for tackling computer hackers and other cyber-crimes, a presidential commission has proposed that perpetrators must be increased from \$250 million (£154 million) to \$1 billion annually. "If we're not vigilant, cyber-crime will turn the Internet into the Wild West of the 21st century," said Janet Reno, the Attorney-General.

Hacking secrets, page 21
Media, page 41

WORLD SUMMARY

Russian miners protest

Moscow: Trade unions yesterday called on Russian miners to stop work until they received long-overdue wages, as thousands vented their anger by throwing blockades across railway lines. Miners' leaders also supported calls for President Yeltsin to resign. Workers staged sit-ins on tracks from the Baltic to the Pacific. Some factories had to close because of shortages of fuel or materials. (Reuters)

Poll deaths
Islamabad: At least 30 people died and more than 200 were hurt in clashes at dozens of polling stations for local elections in eastern Punjab, according to news reports. There were also accusations of widespread vote rigging. (AP)

Kosovo panic
Prishtina: Residents in Kosovo's capital, fearing Belgrade had imposed a blockade on food supplies, snatched up dwindling stocks of bread in a wave of panic buying. Milk, sugar and cooking oil are also said to be scarce. (AFP)

Envoy killed
Strasbourg: The Russian Ambassador to the Council of Europe, Yevgeny Prokhorov, died when his car hit a tree close to the German border, police said. Prokhorov, 45, was married with two children. No other car was involved. (Reuters)

Cheat caught
Athens: An Albanian posing as his country's deputy Foreign Minister got money, favours and the red-carpet treatment at Greek villages. Adriatik Hajno, whose name in slang means "cheat", was found out by a real Greek minister. (Reuters)

Shares slide in Pakistan over Kashmir war scare

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD

IA accused Pakistan yesterday of stepping up military activity along the Kashmir border, using artillery, mortar, air defence guns and automatic weapons. Fear of a nuclear war has helped to send the Karachi Stock Exchange, Pakistan's largest, into freefall, losing \$1 billion off the value of shares in a week. Foreign investors are selling in panic. They are selling everything whatever price they can. "Yasin Lakhani, the Stock Exchange president, said the market has lost 20 per cent of its capitalisation in one week, the biggest drop ever." "There is a great deal of uncertainty over whether Pakistan will conduct a nuclear test, thus inviting international economic sanctions, has led to the panic. Rumours of imminent war in Kashmir — fuelled by Pakistani politicians for domestic consumption, but used on nothing substantive intensified after Delhi announced the end of what it described as its defensive posturing against Pakistani aggression. It said it would pursue a "positive policy" that would include "action against Pakistan" for supporting terrorism in Kashmir. The statement, made by Lal Krishna Advani, the hardline deputy Prime Minister, has raised speculation about the possibility of "hot pursuit" by Indian troops into Pakistani territory that could lead easily to a third war over the disputed territory. India appears to be deliberately talking up the possibility of armed conflict over Kashmir, aware that it is inflicting severe damage on Pakistan's frail economy. Provocative remarks by Indian leaders are

also designed to goad Islamabad into conducting a nuclear test, so that it will suffer crippling sanctions. Delhi said the latest Pakistani shelling was a cover for armed militants crossing into Indian territory. Indian troops had engaged Pakistani gun positions, bringing about a cessation in firing. The heightened tension has added urgency to attempts by the United States to halt the clamour by India and Pakistan to build nuclear weapons, as well as to persuade Pakistan to suspend preparations for a nuclear test. A group of US senators arrives in Islamabad this weekend to present a package of economic and security incentives to the Government in return for calling off the test. The package is expected to offer to end, or at least soften, sanctions imposed since 1990 under the Pressler Amendment as punishment for Pakistan's refusal to curtail its nuclear programme. The sanctions blocked the delivery of 28 F16 fighter planes bought and paid for by Pakistan — planes it no longer wants, since their technology has become outdated. Islamabad would, however, like the money back. The Senate team is also likely to offer security guarantees. It will be a tempting package for a country on the verge of bankruptcy. □ Moratorium offer: India said yesterday that it was ready to hold talks with world powers on formalising a new moratorium on Indian nuclear testing, and was optimistic of good relations with China and an early dialogue with Pakistan. (Reuters)



An injured student is helped to an ambulance after the shootings at the Springfield, Oregon, school from which the killer had been expelled

School rampage boy kills parents and sister

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

AN ARMED 15-year-old schoolboy went on the rampage yesterday in his home town in Oregon, killing four people, including his parents and his sister. The boy, who had been arrested on Wednesday for firearms possession, opened fire with a rifle in his school cafeteria, killing one person and injuring 25. While police and pupils launched a frantic search, the boy, who had been expelled from school, returned home to shoot dead his mother, father and sister. Early reports indicated that the boy was in his first year at Thurston High School in Springfield, Oregon, and had been expelled for trying to bring a gun to school on Wednesday. The boy, in camouflage fatigues and possibly armed with a second weapon,

walked into the school cafeteria before classes began and started shooting with a rifle, apparently at random, police said. He was tackled by fellow pupils but escaped. Dozens were treated afterwards at hospitals, among them four teenagers who had critical injuries. Of those most severely injured, one suffered gunshot wounds to the head, one to the chest and two to the abdomen, said a spokeswoman for the Sacred Heart Hospital in Springfield, where the victims were taken for emergency surgery. Less serious injuries, some apparently caused by a stampede from the cafeteria during the shooting, were being treated at another hospital. American school shootings have become a grim routine in recent months. President

Clinton announced a sweeping import ban on assault guns after two boys, aged 11 and 13, opened fire with rifles and handguns on fellow pupils at their school in Jonesboro, Arkansas, in March, killing four children and a teacher. Since then a 14-year-old nicknamed Satan has killed a science master at a high-school dance in Edinboro, Pennsylvania. Last year three students were killed and five injured by armed teenagers who opened fire on a prayer circle in Paducah, Kentucky, barely two months after an alleged, Satanist killed his mother and two others in a shooting spree in Mississippi. Yesterday's apparently random violence in Oregon left a quiet former logging town in shock, and will add weight to the arguments of gun-control activists as well as increasing the anxieties of parents.



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Warriors who defy death with 'magic mirror'

ROCKET-PROPELLED grenades exploded in the bush around the small group of South African mercenaries and trees were ripped apart by heavy machinegun bullets. A young Kamajor fighter, the team's scout, stood tall in front of his fellow dogs of war, waving a mirror the size of a table-tennis bat, decorated with tassels, and spat in the full direction of the rebel attackers. "You won't believe it, but I off to that mirror saved our lives," said Cobus Claassens, a former South African special forces officer now working for a security company. "You could put the fact that got me hit down to bad luck, but the sheer volume of bullets in the air meant that someone should have been hit. . . that magic works. There's no doubt about it."



South African mercenaries in Sierra Leone believe that tribal charms can bring life-saving luck in battle, Sam Kiley writes

ers of the traditional hunters militia that fights for President Kabbah of Sierra Leone. The movement's 50,000 men all believe they are bullet-proof. So do other mercenaries, and Nigerian officers leading the West African intervention force which restored Mr Kabbah to power in March after nine months of bloody rule by an alliance of Sierra Leone soldiers and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF).

formed the backbone of the bush war against the rebels, who have broken up into small groups and are now conducting a reign of terror through the countryside. Expert trackers, the Kamajors, originally a fraternity of hunters, are as much valued for their ferocity in battle as for their perceived ability to turn bullets to water, deflect rockets with their mirror "controllers" and put the fear of the devil into their enemies. Under the national leadership of Chief Hinga Norman, the Deputy Minister of Defence, the Kamajors march throughout Sierra Leone in groups of about eight, led by



The Kamajors, adorned with colourful charms against wounds from bullets and knives, form the backbone of the bush war against rebels

a standard-bearer carrying their "big magic": a pole embroidered with wool. "That's the anti-bomb. It keeps off the anti-aircraft cannons," explained "Sergeant" Bulatay, a Kamajor passing

through Koidu during a hunt for RUF rebels. Eschewing the use of a firearm, he had a simple philosophy of war using his "capture life" — a small mirror bound with leaves and

tassels. "When I use the magic, it brings the rebel, then I cut his throat," he said. Joseph Fanbunde, a former student, whose arms and chest bore recent scars from having bullet-proofing rubbed

into razor cuts, explained that his charms would work only if he did not harass civilians, loot, murder or have sexual relations. He said: "The rebels do all these things. That's why they die, and we live when we meet in battle. We fight in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ."

Juba is a South African helicopter pilot working for Sandline International, the British mercenary organisation under contract to the Nigerian forces. He has fought in Sierra Leone on and off since 1995. His partner Fred is a Fijian

who spent 22 years in the British SAS. They are in no doubt about the powers of the Kamajors. "The rebels are scared of them. So am I. I've seen their magic working with my own eyes," said Juba. Fred, a machinegunner on the helicopter who has spent six years fighting alongside the Kamajors in the bush, agreed. "Tucked under his flying suit is a small Kamajor charm wound around a necklace. "You get pretty superstitious in our line of work," he muttered.

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Police draw fire over fatalities

Johannesburg: About 60 people in South Africa die every month in police custody or as the result of police action, raising questions about excessive use of force, a newspaper reported yesterday. The Independent Complaints Directorate, a board that handles civilian complaints about police conduct, recorded 534 deaths between April and December 1997. The Star reported. About two thirds of the deaths occurred while police were apprehending suspects, the rest occurred in police custody, it said. Researchers said there was an imbalance of casualties, with suspects much more likely to die than policemen. (AP)

Tommy Lee jailed for kicking wife

Los Angeles: Tommy Lee, the estranged husband of Pamela Anderson Lee, former Baywatch star, was jailed for six months for kicking his wife at their Malibu home as she held their baby son (Giles Whittell writes). Despite an appeal for leniency from Ms Anderson, Lee became the second celebrity in recent months to be jailed by Judge Lawrence Mira, who also sentenced Robert Downey Jr for drug abuse. He called Lee's behaviour "a disturbing pattern of conduct in which otherwise resolvable issues are handled with violence". Ms Anderson married Lee on a Mexican beach with only passing tourists as witnesses.

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Cook's talks on easing Argentina arms ban raise Falklands fears

By MICHAEL BINYON
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR,
AND JAMES CLARK
IN PORT STANLEY

IN A move likely to provoke apprehension in the Falklands, Britain and Argentina yesterday discussed a possible easing of the arms embargo imposed by Britain after the Falklands conflict.

meeting with Robin Cook that the Foreign Secretary had asked him whether a partial lifting of the ban would be acceptable. Argentina has been pressing for its complete removal as a step towards full normalisation.

Señor Di Tella said Mr Cook wanted to know whether Argentina would accept only all or nothing. "We said something is better than nothing," he told a press conference. He said that the

US already considered Argentina an important non-Nato ally; and Germany and Britain had far easier and closer relations 16 years after the Second World War than now existed between Argentina and the Falklands.

The Foreign Office insisted, however, that Mr Cook was only testing the waters, and there was no change of policy. Some exceptions had already been made in the embargo, although the Govern-

ment did not want to suggest these would soon be increased.

Britain is to welcome President Menem on his first visit here this autumn, but Señor Di Tella said no date had been fixed. He said the main purpose was to create trust.

The two men discussed the finding of oil off the Falklands, which Argentina has welcomed. However, the discovery has been overshadowed by a fresh attempt by Argentina to claim royalties

from the licence-holders of the tranches north of the Falklands, which Britain insists are outside Argentine territorial waters. A new Bill in the Buenos Aires parliament claims 3 per cent royalties on any oil revenue plus penalties for not paying.

Señor Di Tella, a regular visitor to Britain, has met Mr Cook four times. His talks yesterday, part of a European tour, came as a proposal for a British-Argentine treaty shar-

ing sovereignty and defence of the islands received a hostile reception from islanders.

Professor Conrado Etchebarne Bullrich of the University of Buenos Aires and Alastair Forsyth, a British former merchant banker, have been in Port Stanley this week, selling their "solution" for the territory. The suggested treaty would involve an agreement between Argentina and Britain guaranteeing the security of the

Falklands and its territorial integrity. Mr Forsyth said, Argentina's sovereignty claim would be waived. Islanders would have autonomy in all other areas such as language, government, law, currency and immigration policy.

Professor Bullrich and Mr Forsyth have met Richard Ralph, the Governor, and elected councillors. They came under fire at a public meeting, where islanders reiterated their desire to remain British.

America cursed in day of deleted bleeps

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

THE day the satellite spun out of control led to far more trouble than most people could have imagined.

From coast to coast in America, 40 million papers stopped bleeping, self-service petrol pumps refused to take credit cards and hundreds of radio and television stations were knocked out of the air — and all because Galaxy 4, hovering in orbit 22,300 miles above Earth, suddenly went on the blink.

It was a stunning revelation of how dependent daily life has become on links to satellites in space.

"This is huge, category 10, the Big One, the one you're up nights worrying about," said John Beletic, chairman of PageMart, a Dallas bleeper company. With its advanced technology, Galaxy 4 carried the majority of pager messages and streams of other data.

In Chicago, a man stuck in a lift could have been rescued in 15 minutes. Instead he had to wait two hours. United Airlines said flights were delayed because pilots could not receive weather information. Doctors and nurses on emergency call had to rely on walkie-talkies or mobile phones.

Drug dealers who use pager codes to tell suppliers where to deliver narcotics were inconvenienced by the digital darkness, as were high-priced escort services in New York.

Some people were pleased to do without being paged. An NBC television cameraman said: "The electronic noise has broken. How nice."

British firm to clean up Russian sub base

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

A BRITISH company is to take part in a multimillion-pound project to clean up radioactive junk and waste from decommissioned nuclear submarines of Russia's Northern Fleet in order to avert what environmentalists fear could be a catastrophe far worse than the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.

The work is to be carried out by the Industrial Group, a partnership between British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL), Kvaerner Maritime of Norway, SKB of Sweden and the French concern SGN. BNFL, which initiated the project, is also having talks with the British Government on the possibility of a direct British contribution to the work.

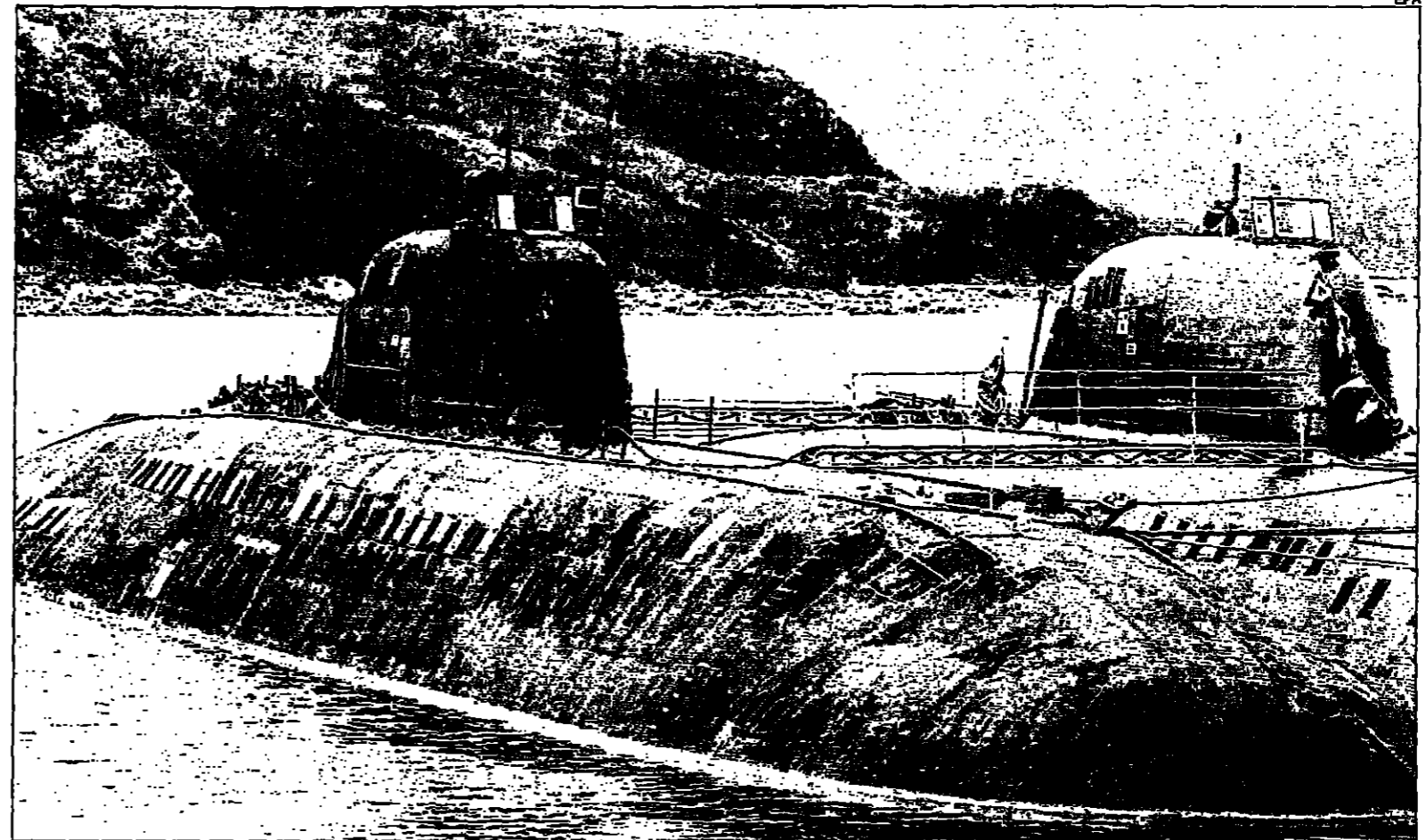
The project, which still requires final approval by the Russian side, involves the removal of reactors and spent

fuel from some 100 submarines in Andreyev Bay, 150 miles northwest of the naval port of Murmansk, close to the Norwegian border.

The material will be transported by special train to the Mayak nuclear storage and reprocessing complex near the west Siberian city of Chelyabinsk, where a special facility is to be built to provide safe storage for the next 40 years.

Since the end of the Cold War, dozens of nuclear submarines, each with two reactors on board, have been laid up around Murmansk, where they lie semi-submerged and rusting. There are widespread fears that an accident could trigger a chain reaction.

According to the Norwegian environmental group Bellona, which has been working in the region since 1989, the resulting



Nuclear-powered submarines of Russia's Northern Fleet moored at Severomorsk near Murmansk. Many have now been decommissioned

explosion would be far greater than that at Chernobyl and make Murmansk and the surrounding area uninhabitable for decades.

But it is the reactors that have been removed from the submarines that pose the immediate threat. Desmond Cecil, a senior adviser to BNFL, said: "When the reactor is still inside the submarine, it is encased in steel and therefore relatively safe in the short term. But where they have

been removed and put into inadequate storage facilities, they have already caused considerable contamination and the first task is to stop this spreading."

The Industrial Group has put an initial \$1 million (£620,000) towards the project and plans to raise further funds through a combination of Western aid and loans, with the aim of the Russians paying an increased share as their economy improves.

After the removal of the nuclear material, work can start on the clean-up of the Andreyev Bay region itself, where the soil has been contaminated by nuclear fuel seeping into the ground from discarded reactors. Engineers will have to divert a stream which threatens to spread the contamination into the Barents Sea.

BNFL intends to provide the expertise and personnel to carry out this work and has

spent £150,000 to launch a study. Further funds are expected to come from Norway, for whom contamination poses the greatest immediate threat.

Progress has been hampered so far by the extreme Russian sensitivity about the subject. When the Bellona report on the region was published in 1996, it was met with outrage by the Russian authorities. One of its authors, Aleksandr Nikitin, a former

Soviet submarine captain, was charged with treason, despite his assertions that all the information he provided was already on public record.

BNFL officials have not yet been given permission to visit the Andreyev Bay area, because of objections from senior naval officials. Murmansk was a closed city in Soviet days, and the authorities are still unwilling to allow foreigners access to military installations.

Riviera killer tells how he selected 17 victims

Rome. The "Riviera killer", Donato Bilancia, 47, told a Genoa prosecutor how, one by one, he chose 17 victims during a seven-month rampage.

The transcript of his 11-hour confession, published by most Italian daily newspapers, depicts a man with a savage desire to kill after the betrayal of two gambling friends caused him to lose a £184,000 bet. Bilancia killed both men, and the wife of one, in two attacks and developed a taste for murder. By his May 6

arrest, nine women and eight men were dead.

Bilancia said he could not explain what drove him to kill again and again. He had begun to crave "variety" and chose five people — all prostitutes — because of their nationalities; they included an Albanian, a Ukrainian and a Nigerian.

His two train victims were the first woman passenger to go into a lavatory. He entered using a skeleton key, then shot them.



Depardieu enjoys beer, but his preference is wine

Depardieu five times over limit in motorcycle crash

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French actor, Gérard Depardieu, was five times over the drink-driving limit when he crashed his motorcycle earlier this week, according to police blood tests.

No charges have been filed against the 49-year-old actor, a national institution in France, who suffered several small fractures to his left leg and a damaged knee in the accident outside Paris just after midday on Monday.

Convictions for drink-driving in France carry penalties of from two months to two years in prison, heavy fines and possible suspension of driving licences.

A blood test found 2.5 grams of alcohol per litre of blood in M. Depardieu's system, or roughly the equivalent of a bottle and a half of wine. The French legal driving limit is 0.5 grams of alcohol per litre of blood. The result of M. Depar-

dieu's blood test was reported by the Agence France-Presse organisation on Wednesday, but the news that the actor was so far over the limit has been virtually ignored by the French press.

The death of Diana, Princess of Wales, whose chauffeur was found to be well over the drink-drive limit, led to calls for tighter restrictions on drinking and driving in France. But police said yesterday that the actor, who is a Knight of the French Legion of Honour, was unlikely to face charges.

M. Depardieu remained in hospital in Paris yesterday although his injuries have been described as fairly minor. "It will only take a few days before he's out," said Claude Berri, the film director, who visited M. Depardieu.

Excessive speed may also have played a part in the

accident outside the village of Clairfontaine, west of Paris, according to news reports. No one else was involved.

M. Depardieu is currently acting in the film version of *Astérix*, the cartoon Gaul, directed by Claude Zidi, and the actor was returning to the set in Paris at the time of the crash.

The product of a tough, working-class background, he has often played hard-drinking characters. He made his name in 1974 playing an alcoholic hoodlum in Bertrand Blier's *Les Valseuses*.

The owner of a vineyard near Anjou, M. Depardieu is known for his taste for wine. His biographer, American journalist Paul Chutkow, wrote in 1994: "Gérard sees alcohol as a means of pushing himself towards the most inaccessible caverns of his psyche."

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Sheraton HOTELS & RESORTS

It ain't heavy, it's my bag

It's not so much that I am a bad traveller — I have endless reserves of stamina and patience and curiosity — but I am a really hopeless packer. Weeks before I go anywhere, I am gripped by a frenzy of panic and indecision over what to take. I dither about, adding and subtracting from the pile to go into the suitcase — which, in order to swallow everything, would have to be like Mary Poppins's carpet bag, capable of accommodating a camp bed complete with eiderdown and a small folding armchair.

Try as I will, I cannot seem to pack like one of those shiny Vogueettes who get their pictures taken as they wait through the VIP area at Heathrow carrying nothing but a water-thin Gucci overnight case. Of course, I know that just out of frame when the photograph was taken was the Vogueette's sweating boyfriend, staggering beneath the weight of several Louis Vuitton cabin trunks and sticking his tongue out at her chic little back, because his hands are too full to give her the energetic V-sign that would really relieve his feelings. In theory, I know the rules just as well as the Vogueette: travel light, take Three Easy Monochrome Pieces, and rinse them overnight ... It's just that I find them so hard to put



Cool, collected and uncluttered ... if only travelling in style were as easy today as the rosy image of fashion on the move in the Fifties



into practice. Still, gazing at the Jasper Conran velvet tunic which, for some reason, I thought might come in handy on holiday in a remote Devon cottage, I tell myself that I Must Do Better. Actually, last time I went away, I did do better. I still ended up hefting a hundred-weight of luggage across town, but at least it was a useful hundred-weight. So, assuming that I shall be going on holiday somewhere where I'll need more than just a bikini and a strong, I think my first shopping expedition might be to Laura Ashley. Ashley has had a dire couple of years, and a shaky start to the season — fussy designs, nasty fabrics and ludicrous prices. But someone there seems to have pulled themselves together, for when I wandered in to its Knightsbridge branch the other day, it was full of desirable, affordable clothes in linen and cotton jersey.

I am a great believer, when travelling, in the virtues of a good, stout skirt — far more practical than trousers, especially if one is planning to go for long walks in places where the provision of public loos has not been a priority. Ashley has a voluminous linen skirt in sand or khaki on an elastic waistband at £45. An unlined khaki linen jacket with side slits is £50. If you think beige is boring, there are drawstring trousers, £40, and an interesting double-buttoned workman's jacket, £50, in Gitanes blue or rose red coarse linen. Shoulder-buttoned maolet T-shirts are £20, denim espadrilles are £10, and a linen and straw hat £20.

Printed linen and viscose shifts are ravishingly pretty and less prone to crushing than pure linen — although one of linen's charms is that it looks just as good crumpled as crisply ironed. I have to admit though, that when I wore my brilliant new buy, an ankle-length cappuccino shift scattered with pink rosebuds, the chap I was having lunch with said: "Darling, you look like a very pretty little chintz sofa."

No chance of resembling a sofa at French Connection, where tough and elegant knee-length cotton sateen skirts with a deep slit back and front are £45. A vaguely military matching jacket with a Mao collar, epaulettes and masses of useful pockets is £70 (but one would probably refrain from wearing it in areas where there was a high risk of armed insurrection). Well-finished cotton T-shirts in sweetie colours with a lingerie bow trim are £18, and bright pink jelly flip-flops in a little bag, £15.

For sultry weather, Oasis has sex kitten side-zipped shorts in brode-

rie anglaise, £21.99, or ice-blue cotton satin, £19.99, and an irresistible flower-embroidered strappy jersey shift in white or turquoise, £39.99. But if you have something more rugged in mind, Gap is the place to shop. Its children's department is a treasure trove (Gap children are giants. I am a large size 10, and 5ft 7in, and fit comfortably into their age 14 trousers and XL tops). A lipstick pink hooded jersey top is £20; "Stormbuster" anoraks in jolly colours fold into a tiny bag and cost £16. Up in the grown-ups' department, cotton jersey cardigans are £20, and deeply cool low-rise Chinos £34. (If you like that comforting feeling that a designer name bestows, Donna Karan's flat-fronted khaki drill jeans are rather a bargain at £55).

If you like this sort of tough, classic look, it is probably worth investing some money in it. It is beyond fashion, and the better the quality, the longer it will last. If I were choosing just two big things this season, I'd go for Hermes's classic wooden-soled mule in beige or navy, £120, and Max & Co's shirt-cut suede jacket, in sand or beige. At £310, it is very Karen Blixen, guaranteed to keep out mosquitoes, noxious night chills and, for all I know, the bite of an enraged puff adder.

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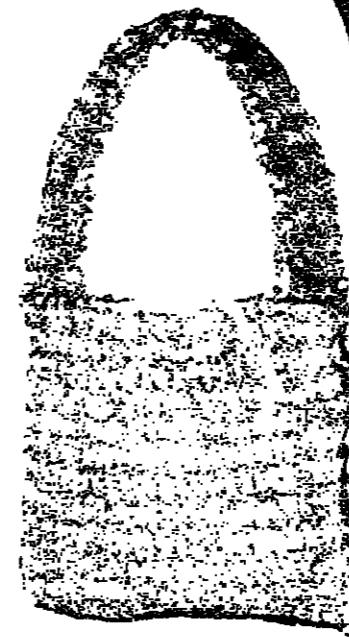
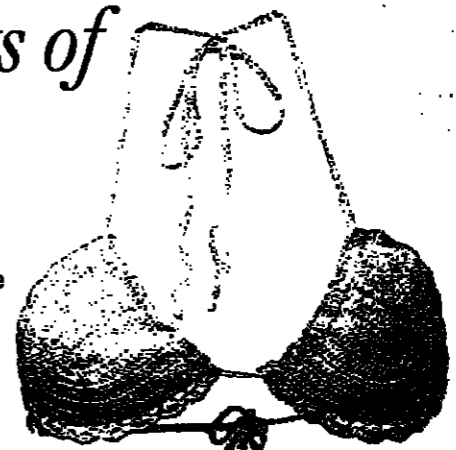
SKINCARE POUCH, £10
This small, clear pouch by Cosmetics à la Carte contains facewash, make-up remover, refresher, skin reviver and it's infamous Matte Miracle, a whizz at preventing noses from becoming shiny. Available for those with oily or dry skin. Cosmetics à la Carte, 19b Motcombe Street, SW1 (0171-622 2318) 10/10



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Objects of desire

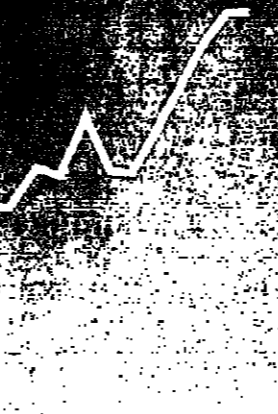
■ Suitable for the beaches of St Tropez, the teary-weary crochet bikini covers very little. Edged in sequins and with tie fastenings, this is an updated version of the old stiff crochet two-piece. Warning - only for those comfortable with maximum exposure. Pull the strings and you could reveal all. £39, at Joseph, 26 Sloane Street SW1 (0171-590 6200).



■ This woven silver mesh bag with threaded opaque beads is exquisite. A lining in ivory silk stops the contents from escaping or being exposed. Big enough to wear during the day, yet elegant enough for the evening. £153.50, by Maria Calderara, from Graham & Green, 10 Elgin Crescent W11 (0171-727 4594).

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It was country hicks who made Britain chic

Like me, you, too, probably plan to devote the long weekend to bolstering Tony Blair's international reputation by spending it in the British countryside, because you and I know that the countryside — having almost single-handedly created the favourable image that foreigners have of us as "Cool Britannia" — has run into trouble and needs us, its friends, to lend a hand.

Sadly, it is not widely enough appreciated that the first people to decide that Britain was cool were fashion-conscious Japanese and German backpackers, who were roaming through the more remote parts of Cumbria and Cornwall when they spotted that the natives all wore the sort of 1970s clothes — flared trousers, striped tank tops, shirt collars so large you could land Concorde on them — that now fetch fancy prices in retro clothes shops on Portobello Road. It was these tourists who thought

to themselves that if even rural folk dress this trendily, then Britain must be a wickedly cool place indeed. Of course, what these foreigners never realised is that these rural types have been dressing in these same 1970s fashions since 1986.

But now there is a mountain of repair work to be done to Tony's political trump card as a result of an article by Fay Weldon in *Chic* magazine ridiculing the boredom and unpleasantness of life in the country (though, luckily, few country-dwellers have had time to read the article on account of all being stuck in tailbacks behind very slow tractors). So-called sophisticated and busy city-dwellers such as Weldon often forget how hurtful this sort of offhand remark can be. In the country, by contrast, people don't let themselves slip into lack of gratefulness. Since one of the key pleasures of country life is harbouring grudges

against other people in the village whose great-grandfathers borrowed your great-grandfather's favourite trowel in 1932 and never gave it back, country-dwellers are always diligent about keeping their memory pin-sharp.

Weldon clearly doesn't recognise the blessings of country life. It's cheaper, for a start. No need to waste money joining a gym, for instance, in the country you get all the exercise you need from running up against ingrained prejudices. And while Londoners are only just getting to grips with the idea of swapping full-time employment for "portfolio" jobs, made up of parcels of work in which you wear several different hats, the countryside has always worked this way. Hence, once sheep have been shorn for the summer, shearers turn their hand to the sister skill of haircutting,

which is another reason why country folk wear so many hats. People are also healthier in the country, because they know which local farmers produce mutant cows and vegetables for London supermarkets through overuse of steroid-enhanced fertilisers, and avoid their farm shops. Living in nature's bosom keeps your survival instinct sharp in other ways, too. Unlike city visitors, for example, we know not to eat peanuts from the big bowl on the bar of the village pub. That's because "Dirty" Derek from Plaas Farm eats peanuts from that bowl every day. Derek hasn't washed his hands since 1994.

What's more, the countryside is so full of opportunity. In the city you have to be Jeremy Paxman or Kate Moss before people stop you in the street. But in the country you can be the man who reads the weather summary after the local news and still develop Travolta-

calibre fame, albeit only across an area of 68 square miles. But within those 68 square miles, every fête-opening is yours.

Fay Weldon is obviously blind to these attractions, which makes me wonder if there isn't something deeper in her aversion to green fields, fresh air and cowpats that get stuck to your boot-treads and then to the brake pedal of your car, from which they can subsequently be removed only by laser surgery in the garage equivalent of Harley Street. You see, the world divides into those who get excited by the prospect of visiting the country, and those who get excited by the prospect of visiting the country only if the country happens to be called Italy, or Brazil. The sort of person who tingles at the thought of Rome or Rio is not usually the same sort of person who tingles at the thought of living in rural Wales, unless the tingling is the result of electric-

shock treatment they are undergoing to prepare them for a life in which the highlight of their day might be stumbling across a sheep they don't recognise.

OK. Nobody's disputing that the countryside suits sheep and rabbits: that's why they live there. And the fact that you enjoy the great outdoors, even though you happen to have only two legs, doesn't automatically mean you're a born countryman. It could mean that you're a chicken.

But, generally speaking, nobody can deny that the countryside combines the joy of living amid beautiful, green landscape with the thrill of never knowing when you will next have to drive 62 miles to find a shop that's open and sells teabags. And I don't speak as someone who has only just moved to the country. Believe me, I speak with the easy assurance of someone who has never lived in the country at all.

Hackers: life in a cybercult

For hackers, breaking into your computer is even easier than searching your dustbin. Barry Wigmore reports

America's top hackers have struck terror into the heart of the computer world with a claim that they can cripple the Internet within half an hour. They further boast that they could interrupt satellite transmissions and perhaps spy on the White House itself, given a little more time.

In testimony to the Senate, the Boston-based group, known as L0pht, said government and commercial computer and telecommunications networks were all too vulnerable to hackers.

Today President Clinton will announce the creation of two government organisations to tackle information warfare. But perhaps the move comes a little late. All too many have already suffered at the hands of the hackers both in the United States and here at home — including Sir Elton John and the military might of the Pentagon.

For Sir Elton it meant extreme personal embarrassment when his bank statements, credit card transactions and the contents of his phone book were looked at. With the Pentagon it could have led to the Third World War.

The stereotype of the teenage hacker, launched 15 years ago by Matthew Broderick in the movie *War Games*, is the computer geek who sits in his bedroom, surrounded by screens, keyboards and modems, causing world chaos by breaking into top-security government and military computer networks.

But that no longer rings entirely true. Modern hackers are a sophisticated bunch ... up to a point. The techniques they employ, and the systems they break into, certainly are. For them, cyberspace is the final frontier, has been breached.

Sir Elton could well be the first known victim of a new phenomenon, the cyber-stalker. On a more dangerous level, in a frenzy of recent Internet attacks, hackers caused havoc in dozens of American Government computers, including the Pentagon. Seven US Air Force computer networks and four

thousands of university and government computers to crash on the eve of Senate testimony by Bill Gates, the Microsoft chairman. Hackers delight in making the point that the modern world cannot function without his products.

The international links between hackers were revealed when one of the Cloverdale teenagers, using the notorious online name, "Makaveli", admitted he worked with a master hacker called the Analyzer (sic), who was based in an unnamed foreign country. The Analyzer was later arrested by Israeli police and identified as 18-year-old Ehud Tenebaum. At the same time special agents from NASA's computer crimes division raided the home of 20-year-old Calidan Levi Coffman, in Carson, Washington state. Coffman, it is alleged, was Tenebaum's number two in a hackers' organisation called The Enforcers which has been accused of breaking into numerous US and Israeli government computer systems.

The hack attacks increased. The Enforcers sent viruses crawling around the Internet, sensitive Defence Department computer files were broken into. Big business computers crashed. It took a poacher turned gamekeeper to broker peace. In 1981, Ian Murphy was the first person to be prosecuted for hacking. He now works for a computer security consultancy.

Murphy negotiated online with The Enforcers, then, in agreement with them, issued a statement saying it was time the establishment bowed to the hackers' "awesome power". He added: "Society must realise that one individual is equal to an entire armed nuclear offensive force and is able to bring about global chaos, if they choose, from a simple computer keyboard."

Who are these people who wield such power and cause so many problems?

It is baking in the Nevada Desert as a strange and motley crowd invades the Aladdin Hotel on the Las Vegas strip. They come by plane, train and automobile from all across America, and all around the world. Among them is a van with a lurching, 30ft aerial, lashed together with broomsticks, poking through its roof.

This is the Voice of Mercury, a pirate radio station, broadcasting the best areas for cellular phone coverage so that pilgrims are not deprived for too long of their lifeblood — access to the Internet on their laptops.

We are going, with 1,500 others, to DefCon, the annual hackers' convention. The term seems an oxymoron. Aren't

run by the US Navy were also hit.

At about the same time, Benjamin Pell, a 34-year-old trainee solicitor from Hendon, North London, revealed that he had been trawling through Sir Elton's computer files.

Hackers employ a mix of ancient and modern techniques to break into systems. One of the simplest is "trashing", the age-old ploy of physically sifting through dustbins — as Pell did — for phone numbers and passwords. More scientific is "blitzing", in which high-speed computer programmes dial all the phone numbers in a specific STD area code. When a computer answers, another programme bombards it with passwords until access is gained. So many people use ordinary names as their password that a comprehensive English dictionary on CD-ROM is a good starting point.

Once into the system, there are "sniffing" programmes that eavesdrop on communications between computers and download all the information. Then the hacker plants a "Trojan horse", a small programme left running in the breached computer, which is like a burglar leaving a door on the latch so he can sneak back in.

Finally there are programmes to cover the interloper's tracks by deleting files that record computer activity. Where do they get these hacking programmes? Downloaded from the Internet, of course. It's all out there if you know where to look. Pell, who claims hackers helped him, is reported to have said: "Getting into the computer system was even easier than getting into the rubbish."

Following these breaches, action was swift on both sides of the Atlantic. In California, the FBI arrested two high-school boys, aged 15 and 16, in Cloverdale, 80 miles from San Francisco. In London, the Rocket Man sued.

The hackers' retaliation to the FBI arrests was just as swift. Even as the teenagers were being read their rights, an unknown Netsurfer caused



Modern hackers are a sophisticated bunch with techniques to match. For them, cyberspace, the final frontier, has been breached

hackers sitting in garrets destroying the world? Not so they protest. Hackers provide a valuable security service. They post their brilliance online. What good is breaking into the CIA computer without bragging about it?

The world seems to be as full of hackers' conventions as it is of, well, hackers. There's CuervoCon, in Texas, and HoHoCon, which happens around Christmas. There's Hacking on Planet Earth in New York, Hacking in Progress in Amsterdam, and Access All Areas in London. But DefCon — named with some irony after the US military's defence-alert acronym — is the IBM of them all.

In the Aladdin Hotel, Armani suits rub shoulders with girls in studs and leather miniskirts. There is Enigma, a 22-year-old student from the University of California, Irvine, a man in cowboy boots and black lipstick and Phantom V, who drives a Porsche and makes a fortune advising big business how to avoid other hackers.

In this curious world, when friends and foes meet in the flesh, it is with mutual admiration, even for the cops. Spot the undercover FBI men in Las Vegas and win a prize. The G-man also gets an "I'm The Fed" T-shirt.

"There are two kinds of hacker," says Enigma. "The people who find security holes and demonstrate them, and little kids who mess things up. All the media sees is the bad guys." Perhaps. But it has been a busy year for the bad guys in cyberspace.

John Austen, managing director of Computer Crime Consultants Ltd, argues that the "War Games kids" are just cannon fodder behind a network of criminals cashing in on the sale of illegally acquired information.

"The trade of information makes the trade of drugs look like a kindergarten," he says.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

WHO WILL BE WHO?

Spotting's Kelly Macdonald will be one of the acting stars of the next decade. Find out who else will join the top 100 of Britain's young and upwardly mobile movers and shakers in a special feature of the Magazine, this Sunday

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What is Chatham House for?

John Lloyd on an identity crisis at our oldest and grandest think-tank

The designation "royal" once dignified what followed it, but now seems more likely to doom it to crisis. The Royal Institute of International Affairs — known as Chatham House after the Elder Pitt, whose home it occupies — is searching for a new director. Its present head, Sir Timothy Garden, was appointed only 15 months ago for a term of five years. Created in the 1920s to be a think-tank *avant la lettre* for the diplomatic classes, it acquired a grand building in St James's Square, a large staff, and a tradition of hosting establishment figures from home and overseas. The RIIA's large council of highly distinguished figures from academic and diplomatic backgrounds have been insouciant about its tendency to lose money year on year.

Chatham House has lived off the accumulation of latter years, selling off assets, including part of its building, to cover the relentless losses. Its directors have included people of distinction such as David Wait, a columnist with *The Times* and the *FT*, and the scholar Lawrence Martin; but these were writers, not administrators or fundraisers. This country has seen

not just to the Foreign Office, but to the Cabinet, line. Its third constraint is now said to be Labour's scorn for it: it is true that Cook in opposition did not frequent its meetings (though George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, did); but he is due to speak there twice next month, and insists that his new Centre will not replace Chatham House.

The largest hindrance to the royal prefix and Chatham House's royal size and dignity. The minds who work and come together there are bulging with facts and ideas; but the culture is not one which encourages flights of imaginative thought, nor one which confronts received wisdom and practice.

Cook has tried to radicalise the Foreign Office establishment by dragging it into contact with the increasingly powerful charities and pressure groups such as Amnesty, Saferworld, and Oxfam; this has given a civil rights edge to some of his policy, but cannot fill the thought gap. Indeed, the temptation for human rights and single issue organisations is to become at least as hidebound in their thought as any diplomat.

Think-tanks, to stay in business, need to be in a story — that, for example, they are at the cutting edge of neo-liberalism, like the Institute of Economic Affairs and the Centre for Policy Studies; or are the reconstruction of the thinking Left, like the Institute of Public Policy Research; or are the merging of toughness and tenderness, like the Social Market Foundation; or are for modernisation, like Demos. Chatham House has no such narrative to be in.

It also needs to tell stories. That is what policy-wonks (or boffins) do. They propose that one can be a Tory and a constitutional radical at the same time (*Federal Britain* by John Barnes, for the CPS). They claim that conservatism can no longer cope with a globalised world (John Gray versus David Willets in *Is Conservatism Dead?* for the SMF).

There are many stories to tell — or to challenge. Cool Britannia's projection abroad is one. Britain's imperial remnants and its imperial echo around the world is another. The impact its minorities like the Asian, the Caribbean, the Jewish — have on the politics of their "homelands", and the latter on this, is yet another. Does ethical foreign policy exist? Is there a third way in foreign policy? Can we be good Europeans?

These are stories without scripts. Foreign policy is complex. The publications of Chatham House will tell you, in expert detail, just how complex. But, like the royals, it is now constrained to connect with a public that is impatient of detail, but which still deserves truth and coherence. Can it be done? And, if not, what — and whom — is Chatham House for?

John Lloyd is associate editor of the *New Statesman*.

Think-tanks need to be storytellers — Chatham House isn't



LAST CHANCE...

Old scandals never die

The Government's sins may sink out of sight, but one day they will resurface

The capacity of a popular and confident Government to absorb discredit without apparent damage is rather like the rubble-swallowing capacity of those bottomless bogs which so daunted the track-layers of the railway age. During the great days of rail construction, it was not uncommon that the only practical route was across a bog or marsh. A causeway had to be laid.

Engineers began tipping stone rubble. But the bog seemed to swallow whatever was tipped. Load after load would splash down as railway directors and investors waited nervously at the edge, looking for the first little island of stone to settle rather than sink. Each load sank without trace — and still the mud glistened, wet and wobbly, its surface unbroken by anything upon which weight could rest.

It took much faith and even more rubble before that island poked its head through the surface, and sometimes the effort broke the bank. But in the end a few stones would firm and settle above the mud, for no pit is bottomless and every rock tipped had come to its rest somewhere down there below. Unseen, stone had built upon stone. The rock you could see was standing on the shoulders of many you could not.

To a defeated opposition party anxious to build a causeway back to credibility, the public surface of a fresh administration seems to glisten with the same wet imperceptibility. You throw a stone — a piece of damning evidence — and it sinks without trace. You tip load after load of hard core — evidence of dishonesty, evidence of arrogance, evidence of incompetence and corruption, of inconsistency, of failure and — glug! The press releases are sucked under, never to resurface. A bubble or two — a short, half-hearted flurry of media interest — but nobody bothers to follow through. Dra! They get away with it again. The evidence was there, but public attention wandered. The verdict was guilty but there was just no appetite to pass sentence.

For years after Margaret Thatcher's Falklands victory, it was like that for poor Michael Foot, then Neil Kinnock. Tam Dalyell all but proved the Prime Minister was dissembling over the sinking of the *Belgrano* — but who cared? The good guys won, for Pete's sake! In her handling of the Westland affair there was obviously something amiss, but ...

oh hang it! It was all so damned complicated and Neil Kinnock was irritating anyway.

I remember those years well as a government backbencher. Ministerial answers, from the Prime Minister's downwards, were evasive. At the dispatch box, Mrs Thatcher just shouted. Her backbenchers fawned. Neil Kinnock huffed and puffed and *The Guardian* carped a bit — but opposition somehow failed to resonate. An atmosphere of arrogance grew. But nothing ever quite stuck — and anyway, she was winning and that was the point. Who wanted to be on the losing side?

Tam Dalyell would rise — oh, not the *Belgrano* again — with his pesky latitudes and longitudes and steaming speeds and distances, and everyone would groan.

No doubt Tony Blair remembers this. You can get away with a lot, for quite a long time, while the love affair lasts. Into the gently shimmering surface of the new Labour Bog the rubble tips — tipped by the Opposition, by the press, by that mother of all oppositions, events — and each load quivers a moment, then sinks out of sight. "Wrapped," as Thornton Wilder puts it, "in layers of forgiveness and understanding, it sinks into the heart like a stone."

Here comes a cartload of rubble — ah! It's the Bernie Ecclestone/Formula One tobacco sponsorship affair — splash! Glug. A few squawks from the media and it's gone. Here comes the Trade Minister's huge shareholding in BP; the Government hesitates, wobbles, backtracks and — glug — down that goes, too. No story, really. Here's a whole cartload of rubble about the absurd Lord Chancellor ... a bigger splash, but then — glug! — the story's gone. Over.

So the Economic Secretary was one of Robert Maxwell's lieutenants? Ah, but she knew nothing. Glug. Story gone. Another cartload approaches and this one's a whopper — tons of rubble on Geoffrey Robinson's tax affairs — huge splash — enough hard core to take quite a while to sink; but sink it does. He was involved with

Maxwell, too? Squelch — but then who wasn't? It doesn't mean anything. Glug. No story.

Several cartloads come teetering down the track. Rotten Labour local authorities: Glasgow; Doncaster; Hull; Liverpool; Islington; Hackney ... splash-splash-splash — in it all goes, lingers a bit and sinks. Labour MP commits suicide. Plop. Two more suspended pending inquiries: plop, plop; alleged irregularities over election expenses — plop ... and ...

Ker-splash! Robin Cook. Woman trouble: India; Jerusalem; Sierra Leone. So much hard core here that we almost seem to have an island firming up in the bog. PM distances himself slightly from Cook — "Blair swears Cook" say the tabloids — that's all right, then — squelch. The island

quivers and sinks. It was just one of those things.

Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's press secretary, blunders in, secures an endorsement from some rickety West African minor bully whose multi-eaten administration were now stuck with propping up, stubs his toe, writes to *The Times*, glug, fust over. Down sinks the stone, along with a rather hefty rock from the personnel department of the Express who seem to have submitted to a proprietorial veto on the appointment of a political editor whom the PM's office didn't like. Pretty bad show — but, glug. What's gonna do about it? The German press find this story rather important: the British press hardly bother with it because Lord Hollick is no relation of Rupert Murdoch.

And then there's the little matter of the Government's policies. These are in some disarray. Constitutional reform veers off track: Wales isn't interested, Scotland prepares to mutiny, Londoners yawn at a mayoralty, Ulster teeters, the Parliamentary Labour Party mutters about Lib-Labbery and PR. The NHS is way off course: class sizes are climbing; inflation's mounting; the pension review is stuck in the mud; Frank Field is sulking; farmers are scream-

ing on the euro, Blair is hawvering; manufacturing trembles on the brink; local government elections deliver disappointment ...

Splash, splash, splash. And William Hague chooses this moment to start another stupid Euro-row among the Tories! Lord deliver us. Glug. The Government escapes the headlines again. Somewhere deep beneath the bog's surface, hundreds of tons more rubble are making their way downward.

But Mr Hague should remember — perhaps he did remember, as he demolished Mr Blair over the health service at PM's Questions this week — that every rock thrown in, stays in. In realms invisible, a foundation is rising. In the end it will surface. Teflon was always the wrong analogy, because discredit does stick. It sticks in the collective half-conscious memory of a nation.

I compare this to the individual unconscious mind. When we "turn" against a person or plan, we may think the decision was conscious and instantaneous — the throwing of a switch. But although the conscious mind throws the switch, it is in the unconscious where the case for the decision is built. It is built stone by stone, under the mud. When that foundation is ready, the first stones break the surface and we "decide".

The "sleaze" stories of John Major's administrations were small stones, resting upon the rocks which had been laid down beneath the surface during Thatcher's 11 unbridled years — but resting, for the first time, above the surface. A nation's patience had snapped. That is why in history certain events seem to attract an attention out of proportion to their size: we forgive and forget six big sins, then the seventh — a small sin, perhaps — proves one too many.

We are forgiving Mr Blair a great deal at present, because we choose to — and may forgive him a good deal more yet. But every stone splashed out of sight is down there, in place and ready to support the next. Slowly the whole foundation rises towards the surface of events where the sun glistens on the marsh as though nothing is happening. It is happening. Mr Hague wants patience. As the House packs bags for the Whit recess, it knows in its bones that all the old, familiar things are bringing this Government down to earth — and rather faster than some yet see.

Matthew Parris

Philip Howard



Liz Hurley was rustling in Tencel (silk, surely? - Ed)

Tencel was the new wonder fabric. This is an artificial, washable "silk". It is popular at the eastern end of the Silk Road. But Tencel has bombed like whalebone stays in the West, and its failure has snipped the hem of Courtauld's profits.

This failure may be a froufrou of fashion. Westerners will wear Lycra and other chemicals for their sportswear and shell suits, but they have come back to natural textiles for everyday wear, even furs. It may be a failure of marketing. But the name of Tencel, with its connotations of tension and selling, is unpromising. Silk is ornate, silk is languorous, erotic and onomatopoeic. Tencel sounds bracing and uncomfortable.

For there is poetry as well as luck in the naming of textiles. As much money and ingenuity is spent on this process as on the naming of cars, with equally silly results. The most successful of all such names is nylon. It was glorified by its use during the war as the sheer stocking fabric that made women's legs look like flesh and not tree trunks. Land girls would kill or do something even more drastic to obtain parachute material from the American airman.

Nylon suggests vinyl in one of the ghastly puns enjoyed by chemical nomenclaturists. But it contains not a drop of vinyl. Nylon is economical woman's silk. It is protected by patent. The name whispered glamour because of its modernity and convenience: "Dunk your nylons in rich sud of neutral soap." And his first nylon shirt was a rite of passage for a boy. On the other hand, nylon sheets, though easy to wash, are slimy to sleep in. And Betjeman disapproved: "Encase your legs in nylons, / Bristle your hills with nylons, / O age without a soul."

Nylon was a new word coined in 1938, but it has spawned hundreds of imitations. And there is vigorous linguistic controversy about its derivation. Some say that nylon is an acronym because it was invented simultaneously in New York and London. Ingenious. Others state that its name came from an exclamation like "Eureka!" made by one of the Du Pont chemists working on it. Now, You Lousy Old Nipponese Racist and absurd. All such folk etymology is gas from the Bunsen burner.

For nylon is one of the blue moon examples when the inventors put the way its name was invented on the record. Its official chemical name is polyhexamethylenediamide. It was named after the monomer in order to save paper and patience. Rumours circulated about the name of this magical new fabric that brought not-quite-silk within the budget and the wardrobe of everyone. A decade later they inspired the Ealing comedy *The Man in the White Suit*, with Alec Guinness playing the laboratory dishwasher who invents a magic fabric that never wears out and never gets dirty.

And on February 9, 1940, the Du Pont Co gave the official version. John W. Eckelberry signed the letter. He wrote that nylon is a generic word coined by the du Pont Co. It is not a registered name or trademark. He wished to emphasise the following points. First, that the letters n-y-l-o-n have absolutely no significance, etymologically or otherwise. Because the names of two textile fibres in common use — namely "cotton" and "rayon" — ended with the letters "on", it was felt that a word ending in "on" might be desirable. A number of words were suggested because it was found they were not sufficiently distinct from words found in the dictionary, or in lists of classified trademarks. After much deliberation, the term "nylon" was finally adopted. At least this was an improvement on another company suggestion that was run up the flagpole. This was Duparoon, from Du Pont pulls a Rabbit Out Of A Hat.

Of course, a name is only a label. What matters is the stuff under a label. But companies would not spend so much time and money on naming the stuff if they did not think that a "must have" name helped. But some people are never pleased by either name or stuff. On his tour of the Heterotopia, Dr Johnson imagined: "If I kept a seraglio, the ladies would all wear linen gowns, or cotton — I mean stuffs made of vegetable substances. I would have no silk; you cannot tell when it is clean." Sam in charge of a harem is a majestic image. But I don't suppose he would have thought much of Tencel either, name or material.

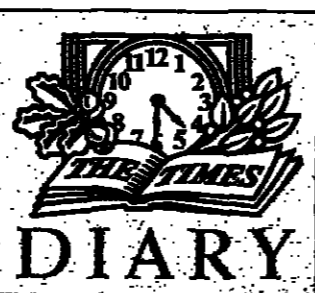
Hung up

ARSÈNE WENGER looks set to be hung in the National Portrait Gallery. The Frenchman who led Arsenal to the league and cup Double (pictured, right) is to be honoured despite misgivings from starchy trustees. After a little prompting by the Minister for Sport, Tony Banks, the Gallery is to atone for its decision to reject Eric Cantona (also pictured) by awarding the mild-mannered hero of Highbury a place in the pantheon. Charles Saumarez Smith, the NPG's innovative director, believes his trustees can be persuaded: "They are quite keen on football at the moment. The qualifications are that an individual has made a major contribution to British life. That certainly would not disqualify Wenger and nor would his nationality." Banks is confident: "I have been working with the NPG on a forthcoming exhibition of sporting greats, who are the real modern-day heroes and heroines." Banks still admires Ruud Gullit, the dreadlocked former manager of his beloved Chelsea. "Some might say there are other foreign coaches with a superior claim than Arsène Wenger, but he is well worthy of consideration."



Some trustees will fight a defensive action. Sir Antony Acland, the Provost of Eton and a former British Ambassador to Washington, reminded his colleagues that they were running a national gallery: "It is mainly for British people and there are limits on

space. We have to take into account the time a foreign manager stays in this country and whether his achievements are lasting." Earl Russell, the Liberal Democrat peer and trustee, has seen footballers come and go: "I asked the trustees if they could remember the England forward line of 1947. The only name that has lasted is Sir Stanley Matthews. There is a case for postponing these decisions." Saumarez Smith has a patriotic solution: "It is very likely that Alan Shearer will nip in there first."



SHIRLEY WILLIAMS is in danger of becoming an A-list celebrity for parties everywhere, as the frosty inhabitants of Siberia have discovered. On a recent jolly to Russia's frozen north, Baroness Williams of Crosby enjoyed a lusty local banquet, lubricated by vodka and folk songs. The baroness, itching to join in, was advised against by Lord Skidelski, a travelling companion. But Skidelski discloses in the latest Prospect: "Her renditions of Greensleeves and Scarborough Fair were a triumph."

Re-rooted

WILLIE DONALDSON, aka Henry Root and Talbot Church ("Friend of the royals"), is back. This time his alter ego is Liz Reed, a 29-year-old media babe who bombards television production

companies with treatments which are amateurish at best. The book is to be published by Mainstream in September, and it includes a reply from James Boyle, the Controller of Radio 4, which begins: "Of course I remember you ..." Unfortunately, the companies are beginning to twig that they are being targeted by a hoaxer: an e-mail went round one, warning about Ms Reed and perceptively likening her to Henry Root.

AT LEAST the insults are growing a shade more cerebral. On the Northern Ireland football terraces, supporters of the nationalist club Cliftonville now taunt loyalist teams with the slogan "cross border bodies with executive powers".

Turning off?

HAVE the spokes fallen off the Millennium Wheel? A senior figure at Mitsubishi, tipped to design and build the wheel, says the £26 million budget is insufficient. "We are struggling on the price they want to pay. The project may have to be abandoned." Another problem: persuading an insurance company to cover it. If it crashed, a large chunk of London would be flattened. "The wheel will be built in time and to budget," insist officials. Perhaps.



As Gazza wheezes towards France, here is an image to send Glenn Hoddle scurrying to a faith-healer: the errant midfielder with fag in mouth. Gazza will be given first refusal on the daub. The man with the brush is Peter Howard, our war artist in Bosnia, where he developed a pretty line in mutilated corpses. Howard, whose work adorns the walls of David Bowie and Maurice Saatchi, says it is an affectionate portrait: "I am a big fan. All the great footballers have a destructive streak."

IT IS cans of baked beans at ten paces in the Sainsbury clan. John Sainsbury, the Thatcherite, really does hate cousin David, the Labourite; or so it would seem. John (Lord S of Preston Candover) has written to *The Spectator* grumbling that a recent profile was "unjust". He criticises the lack of reference "to those who made a major contribution" to the company — such as his brother Simon. But as for the central allegation that "he makes little secret of his contempt" for the business abilities and politics of his cousin David (Lord S of Turville), he is quite, quite silent.

JASPER GERARD

مَكْنَزَا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ



AFTER SUHARTO

A peaceful revolution that could still end in flames

President Suharto has so completely dominated his country for 32 years that, even though he has formally passed the baton to Jusuf Habibie, his deputy and protégé, to describe his enforced resignation as a mere shifting of the deckchairs on the *Titanic* would be perverse. With revolutions, the tumbrils do not always appear in the first act. The knives were wielded in dark palace rooms, not out on the streets, but it was street protest that sharpened them and dictated the timing of their use. When the men in suits and uniforms came for him on Wednesday night, Mr Suharto was in no mind to yield to "people power". By dawn they had bluntly disabused him of the dangerous illusion that time was still there to be bought.

The drama will send a chill through every oligarchy that cloaks dictatorship in constitutional form because it shows that emergency can sharpen the wits and will of the tamest power structures. The puppets that Mr Suharto had directed so effortlessly suddenly acquired a life of their own. Fourteen Cabinet ministers refused to work under him, announcing that unless he went, "Indonesia's economy would collapse within a week". Golkar, the ruling party, joined other faction leaders of Indonesia's tame Parliament to demand that he depart at once, or face what amounted to impeachment next week. The coup de grace was delivered by Indonesia's powerful generals, who by Mr Suharto's design are an integral part of the political system. In the interest of order, they would help to give his precipitate exit a veneer of dignity, but that was all.

Mr Habibie is now President only because observing constitutional form was the simplest means to a relatively bloodless end to the Suharto years. No matter what he may say — and his televised address yesterday spoke of "total" political and economic reform, clean government free of nepotism and co-

operation with the IMF in terms that were humble to the point of pleading — he commands respect neither at home nor abroad.

Despite a successful early career in aeronautics, he is no technocrat. His management of the country's key state industries has been notoriously wayward and spendthrift, and his famous "zigzag" theory of economics — which advocates cutting interest rates to cut inflation — so terrified financial markets that the rupiah recorded its steepest-ever fall when he was named Vice-President last January. Distrusted by ordinary people and unpopular with both army and politicians, his closest links are to Muslim intellectuals. And, having been semi-adopted by Mr Suharto as a teenager, he is hardly the man to force the Suharto family to account for, and to surrender, its corrupt accumulation of huge wealth.

Even if the Government which Mr Habibie is due to appoint today is composed of technocrats capable of arresting total economic collapse, financial stability is unattainable until Indonesia has a President who is both trusted by international financial institutions and capable of inspiring popular confidence. The Establishment may believe that political reform is unaffordable; that would be perilously mistaken.

Indonesia's political model has been rendered as bankrupt by Mr Suharto's authoritarianism as have its banks by his crony capitalism. The building of a new social compact, with genuine political parties and free elections, is an indispensable accompaniment to economic reform. The countries, South Korea and Thailand, that have best weathered the past year's economic storms in Asia have been those with such safety valves. To avoid the violent destabilisation of this vast, strategically situated archipelago, the search for the architect of political renewal cannot be concluded too soon.

GHOSTS OF THE PAST

Unions could expect no more from Blair

One of the healthiest influences on the British economy in the past 20 years has been the decline in the strength, size and power of trade unions. It is easy to forget how, in the 1970s, management simply did not have the right to manage. Any legislation that increases trade union power should thus be treated with deep suspicion. As we argued last week, we would not have started from here. All that we can say now is that the provisions of the White Paper, *Fairness at Work*, are not as bad for the functioning of free enterprise as they could have been.

They are, however, internally inconsistent. For instance, the paper acknowledges that "in modern businesses, relationships at work are flexible and tailored to the size and culture of the company or organisation. Sometimes, they are provided by a partnership between employers and trade unions which complements the direct relationship between employer and employee. On the other hand, some organisations achieve effective working relationships in other ways." In that case, why not allow those "other ways" to continue, unfettered by statute?

The paper goes on to say that "the Government believes that each business should choose the form of relationship that suits it best". Some businesses understandably prefer to deal with employees individually. Why should they have collective bargaining forced on them by their workforce? The Government says that employees should also have a right to choose. They have that choice already: many businesses recognise unions and people who want to work for such a company can choose to do so.

The proposals do not have logic on their side. But they do at least ensure that union recognition cannot be sneaked past an

apathetic workforce by a minority of activists. The 40 per cent threshold demands that such a major move within a company be supported by a significant proportion of employees. Mr Blair was right to hold out for such a high figure, for the very reason that most trade unionists and left-wing MPs oppose it: a recognition ballot will now be won only if employees want it badly enough.

The provisions for automatic recognition, however, need further attention. If more than half of employees are union members, collective bargaining will come into force without a ballot. This assumes that all who join a union do so in order to have their pay and conditions negotiated for them. In fact, people are just as likely to join for other reasons, for advice on employment law and, once the new law is enacted, the chance to be accompanied at disciplinary procedures. Those employees should be able to ensure that their membership is not taken as automatic endorsement of union recognition.

The measures on unfair dismissal could cut the qualification period from two years to one. This will probably be acceptable to most businesses. What is critical is that hiring mistakes can be rectified: a year is normally a long enough time to assess whether a new employee is a success. Businesses will also be relieved to have some defence over dismissing workers who go on strike. In these circumstances, employees will have the right to complain of unfair dismissal, but the tribunal will find for them only if the employer acted unfairly and unreasonably. This is a dilution of Labour's past policy.

This is likely to be the last pro-union legislation that a Blair administration ever enacts. With these measures, the party's debt must be considered paid.

BIOTECH MONEY

A salutary warning from a Times campaign

The doctors who can produce a cure for cancer will merit a place alongside Louis Pasteur and Marie Curie. Unlike their celebrated predecessors, the modern heroes of the laboratories stand to earn not only the immense gratitude of generations but a huge amount of money as well.

Inevitably, where medicine and commerce mix, there is scope for conflict. When the medicine becomes increasingly sophisticated and the commerce ever more cut-throat, then the potential conflicts intensify. In recent weeks the City has been witnessing an extraordinary drama which has demonstrated what can happen when the Stock Exchange and possible cancer cures combine. British Biotech was once deemed to be a leader in the race to develop a new generation of drugs. Excitement over its potential persuaded investors to throw cash into the company, plumping up its valuation until it was on the verge of entering the ranks of the country's largest companies.

Today it is a sickly shadow of those optimistic days, its capitalisation slashed from £2 billion to £350 million. The board is fighting against allegations that include insider share dealing by some directors and concealment of the truth about the prospects for its drugs, the two not unrelated. For its medical entrepreneurs do not have to wait for their discoveries to be proven in order to make their fortunes: mere "hope order" is enough. British Biotech sold its shares to the stock market on optimism

chance to convert that optimism into cash. As the findings from clinical trials of the drugs filtered through, the company failed to pass on the disappointments.

When *The Times* sought to discover the truth, the company rushed to the courts and obtained an injunction to stop us publishing a report that it had cited in vindication. This week, that decision was overturned and we were able to publish the contents of the report. They raise further doubts about the company's behaviour. Now, while admitting no error, the chief executive is to depart.

The Biotech saga is a tragedy, not just for those who have had reputations or fortunes damaged but for other young companies intent on raising the funds to create new medicines. Modern drugs are not discovered overnight but developed over years in high tech laboratories. They then must go through clinical trials and the long-winded assessment processes of the world's drug licensing authorities. It is an expensive process and, while the winners can reap fortunes, the success rate is not encouraging.

It may be that, within the Biotech portfolio, there is at least one useful drug. But in its treatment of the City the company has succeeded in damaging, if not destroying, investors' confidence in the sector. The cure is not simple. Investors cannot be given daily health bulletins on drug trials, but strong management should be able to ensure that investors are not fed false hopes and that doctors are not allowed to put the profit motive ahead of patients' wellbeing.

هكذا من الأصل

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-762 5000

Hague hardens Tory party stance on monetary union

From Sir Raymond Whitney, MP for Wycombe (Conservative)

Sir, As you point out in your leading article today, "Second front", in his recent speech William Hague accuses the European Union of being set on autopilot towards an agenda of a single state devised 40 years ago. In so doing, he ignores the changes which have taken place in the EU in recent years.

Since the adoption of the Single European Act in 1986 there has been a significant flow of power and influence back to the states from the central institutions. The subsidiarity provision was inserted in the Maastricht treaty in 1992 and further entrenched at Amsterdam, and today's EU is one that Monnet would hardly recognise. It is surprising that in a speech of some 7,000 words there is not a single mention of subsidiarity.

William Hague sets out his version of the defining characteristic of national identity and allows that "in this sense" France is a nation. Yet he goes on to imply that the French are about to surrender their national identity to a centralised European state. The reality is that the French, in common with the Germans, Spaniards, Italians and others, see the EU as the best guarantee of their continuing national independence and not the reverse.

You refer to the astute analysis of the economic dangers that monetary union would create which William Hague offered to the CBI last November. Unfortunately he has again failed to focus on the potential benefits to Britain of joining a stable euro system and the negative impact on our national interests if we remain outside. Among the latter would be a serious weakening of Britain's ability to turn the EU into the paths of flexibility and free trade to which Mr Hague, quite rightly, attaches so much importance.

Peter Riddell observes in his article today that the logic of William Hague's objections to EMU is that we should stay out of the system for ever and not just for the next Parliament. As he points out, this is a political out-die which would have very serious implications for our party.

Sincerely,
RAY WHITNEY,
House of Commons.
May 20.

From Mr D. Nicholas Marr

Sir, Peter Riddell says that William Hague's incoherent speech has further detached his party from the main political and business debate about Europe. Has there ever been such a debate? Only from a small number of

newspapers including yours, but not, alas, from our politicians. The return of conviction politics is to be applauded after years of fudge, though I fear it is all far too late.

Yours faithfully,
D. N. MARR,
Salford Manor,
Salford, Bedfordshire MK17 8BB.
May 21.

From Dr Alan Sled

Sir, Your leading article on William Hague's speech made far greater sense than Peter Riddell's comments. Far from isolating the Tory party or reducing its support in the future, I believe Mr Hague's stand will encourage those millions of Tory voters who deserted the party at the last election to return to it.

Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke are wrong. It was, in my view, their policy of fake unity that brought the Conservative Party one of its worst-ever election results.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN SLED (Leader,
UK Independence Party, 1993-97),
Flat 3, Aberdeen Court,
68 Aberdeen Park, N5 2BH.
May 20.

From Sir Julian Critchley

Sir, Does it much matter what William Hague says about Europe, save for the disharmony his speeches cause among Conservatives? The chances of his becoming Prime Minister within the next ten years are remote. He presides over a rump of a party which has suffered its most grievous defeat this century. He will not win in 2002, such is the size of Labour's majority. By 2007 he will be the chairman of a small merchant bank.

At that time we will either have joined a successful common currency, or the whole experiment will have collapsed. Mr Hague is surely surplus to requirements.

Yours etc,
JULIAN CRITCHLEY,
19 Broad Street,
Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 1NG.
May 20.

From Mr Tim Parkinson

Sir, Economists make mistakes. They get things right as well, of course, but the briefest look at recent economic history will reveal a lack of complete success in economic policymaking. However, an economic mistake can usually be rectified: we could leave the ERM, the Bank of England can change interest rates, the Government can alter tax rates and spending. The

Science and industry

From Dr Robin Russell-Jones

Sir, Your report (May 14) that the tobacco industry has employed an army of scientists to deny the harmful effects of smoking will come as no surprise to environmentalists. Similar tactics have been employed by industrial interests for more than 200 years.

In the 18th century cidermakers used "sugar of lead" (lead acetate) to sweeten apples from the West Country, and in 1767 Sir George Baker (later private physician to King George III) correctly identified lead as the cause of Devonshire colic. Far from welcoming this inspired piece of research, the cider industry hired experts to tour the country vilifying Sir George, who eventually retired from public life.

Government select committees like to think they are more objective, but they too are commonly duped by industrial scientists. It was only four years ago that the late Roger Perry, Professor of Environmental and Waste Management at Imperial College from 1981 to 1995, persuaded the Transport Select Committee that lead-free petrol was carcinogenic and posed a greater risk to public health than leaded fuel. What is not so well known is that Perry was an adviser not only to the select committee but also to a manufacturer of lead additives for petrol.

Nowadays the main source of disinformation is the fossil-fuel industry, desperate to deny the effects of global warming, and with virtually unlimited sums available for propaganda purposes. Newspapers, including *The Times*, should discriminate more when reporting the views offered by such people.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN RUSSELL-JONES,
Atholl House, Church Lane,
Stoke Poges,
Buckinghamshire SL2 4NZ.
May 14.

Referendum threshold

From Mr Warren D. Howes

Sir, Perhaps the Government can justify a 40 per cent majority in workplace ballots (letters, May 18 and 20) because this was similar to the percentage vote they achieved in the general election which they won.

Yours faithfully,
WARREN HOWES,
Hixt Baker Hall,
Party's Lane, Bristol BS9 1AD.
wh139@bristol.ac.uk
May 20.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-762 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

A chance for reconciliation in Ulster

From the Deputy Leader of the Ulster Unionist Party

Sir, You say in your leading article (May 20) that 40 per cent of the population of Northern Ireland is "nationalist or republican". Whilst the census makes it clear that 40 per cent of the population is Roman Catholic it does not follow that 40 per cent of the electorate is RC. Since babies do not vote only 35 per cent of the electorate is RC.

In Friday's referendum, if there is a 65 per cent "yes" vote, then it will be reasonable to conclude that the majority of both Protestants and RCs have voted in support of the Stormont agreement.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN D. TAYLOR,
House of Commons.
May 20.

From Mr David W. Bleakley

Sir, Robert Darney (letter, May 20) is right to remind the Prime Minister of his duty to end the discrimination against citizens in Northern Ireland who wish to join the Labour Party.

Along with thousands of Labour supporters in Northern Ireland I believe that such discrimination should have no place within a truly new Labour Party. Mr Blair's seeming acquiescence in this matter is at variance with the new Labour spirit of inclusiveness which he so ably proclaims.

I am assured by friends at Westminster that the Prime Minister awaits a positive signal from the Northern Ireland electorate on this vital parity of esteem issue. So be it.

Saudi release

From Dr Richard Fairburn

Sir, We pride ourselves in this country on the separation of powers which prevents undue political influence on the judiciary. The appearance is now given of the exercise of political pressure by a British Prime Minister on the judicial process of another country to gain the release of those convicted of serious crimes (report, May 20, later editions).

Whether we agree with the codes of another sovereign state is quite irrelevant and the UK has, rightly or wrongly, not been free from criticism of its own judicial processes.

Those who respect the right of Saudi Arabia to determine its own criminal justice system should extend their sympathies to the Saudi authorities for the disrespect shown.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD FAIRBURN,
8 Westwood Avenue,
Ipswich IP1 4EQ.

principle of economic decision-making, like that of all other decisions, is simple: if potential benefits outweigh potential costs, do it.

Economic and monetary union has undoubted potential benefits. The potential costs, however, are astronomical and the greatest of these is, in your leading article's words, "unilateral economic disarmament". EMU might well not work (particularly for the UK) and if this economic policy goes wrong we have no way to rectify our economic distress.

Regardless of the political bulldozer pushing the project through, it is imperative to look at the economic folly of this enterprise; Mr Hague should be applauded.

Yours faithfully,
TIM PARKINSON,
(Economics master),
Winchester College,
College Street,
Winchester, Hampshire SO23 9NA.
tjp@wincoll.ac.uk
May 20.

From Mr Chris Quinlan

Sir, Why are multinational companies allegedly so in favour of EMU?

Won't transparency in the prices of products and services tend to equalise prices downwards? Take the debacle over the high price of cars in the UK compared with other EU countries. Is it likely that manufacturers would be able to solve the problem by making cars in Spain or Germany more expensive?

However, the effect on costs may not all be in the same direction. Human nature being what it is, wage transparency will tend to equalise labour costs in an upward direction — and of course these are often a company's biggest area of expense.

So "Euro businesses" could find their margins being squeezed from both sides.

Yours faithfully,
CHRIS QUINLAN,
69 Gloucester Road,
Kingston upon Thames KT1 3QW.
May 18.

From Mr Stanley A. Prosser

Sir, It is because, as one of the "old men", I do not want the young men of Europe to slaughter each other ever again, that I suggest young Mr Hague visit the many military cemeteries of Europe, as an educational necessity.

Yours faithfully,
STANLEY PROSSER,
13 Twyford Abbey Road, NW10 7HH.
May 19.

Bony dinosaurs

From Dr Laurie Croft

Sir, Your report, "Ugly dinosaurs ruled the Earth" (May 15), draws attention to the bony structure above the eye of the predatory dinosaur *Majungatholus atopus*. This dinosaur, however, is not alone in possessing such a feature. Other successful dinosaurs, for example *Triceratops*, also possessed similar anatomical structures. This might suggest that they had an important biological function.

My suggestion, reported in *The Times* of April 27, 1982, that dinosaurs were susceptible to cataract blindness during a period of increasing solar radiation has been widely ridiculed. However, it is now accepted that exposure to sunlight causes cataract in man and that some limited protection is provided by the eyebrows and forehead. Why should dinosaurs have been any different?

Indeed, those dinosaurs that developed these bony structures above their eyes would have had considerable protection from harmful solar radiation and thus had significant advantage over those that lacked these modifications.

Yours sincerely,
L. CROFT,
11 Amblesay,
Walton-le-Dale, Preston PR5 4JF.

Out of our darkness

From the Dean of Chester

Sir, Recent letters about car horns (May 4 and 9) prompt me to refer to an equally confusing habit on the roads: that of drivers who flash their headlights.

In my experience, these signals have a number of meanings. For example:

1. Good morning, Mr Dean.
2. No, after you, please.
3. Thank you so much.
4. Your driving licence needs to be revoked (or words to that effect).

Yours without illumination,
STEPHEN S. SMALLEY,
The Deanery,
7 Abbey Street, Chester CH1 2JF.
dean@chesterathedral.org.uk
May 18.

Off the scent

From Mr Ian Rae

Sir, I read with interest of an undetectable toiletry which makes men more attractive to women (report, May 12).

Are there any plans to market an odourless repellent?

Yours,
IAN RAE,
1257 Bristol Road South,
Northfield, Birmingham B31 2SW.
May 13.

Mixed reviews for art students' hoax

From Mr John Clargo

Sir, I read with great interest your reports (May 19 and 20) about the elaborate hoax performed by the fine art students from Leeds.

If their exhibition really was supposed to be the look on their tutors' faces as they formed an unsuspecting welcoming committee at the airport then the artists are to be congratulated on their foray into an uncharted area of performance art: one where the performers are not aware that they are performing.

Either way I have taken more pleasure from this "art" than from many other arguably more serious modern works. Therefore I have sent the students involved a small sum by way of "admission fee". I trust they will use it to provide new materials — whether paint, clay, flowers or beer.

Yours cheered-up,
JOHN CLARGO (Barrister-at-law),
Hardwicke Building,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2A 3SB.
jclargo@aol.com
May 20.

From Mrs Kim Sutton

Sir, My husband and I have just enjoyed a weekend break in Cardiff, and wonder whether this qualifies us for the fine art degree course at Leeds University.

As fine art students in the 1960s we were taught figure drawing, painting and the history of art, which has equipped us for employment in the precarious world of work.

Approximately once a week I receive a telephone call from art students, similar to those at Leeds University, asking for work. Sadly, though they may be talented, they are not skilled, and as such are unemployable.

Yours faithfully,
K. C. SUTTON
(Fine art dealer),
The Knoll,
Upper Poppleton, York YO2 6QB.
May 19.

From Mr R. H. White

Sir, The art students on the Costa del Scarborough show impeccable judgment — a fine balance of scepticism, wit and detachment.

Appoint them, exclusively, as the hanging committee of the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition at once.

Yours truly,
RUPERT WHITE,
Kingsbury House, 15-17 King Street,
St James's, SW1Y 6QU.
May 20.

OBITUARIES

WOLF MANKOWITZ

Wolf Mankowitz, author, playwright and scriptwriter, died on May 20 aged 73. He was born on November 7, 1924.

Wolf Mankowitz was a gifted writer whose initial success, in the 1950s, gave rise to hopes of his developing into an English Damon Runyon or Malamud. But his undoubted talent for capturing the lyrical essence of London life — particularly the Anglo-Jewish East End — in vigorous dialogue and unashamedly sentimental stories, never translated into sustained artistic achievement, although he made memorable and in some cases enduring contributions in many cultural fields, from poetry to porcelain.

His best-loved pieces, which drew upon Yiddish folklore and his memories of his own childhood in and around Petticoat Lane, were *A Kid for Two Farthings* — a whimsical comedy drama about a young boy and his magic goat — and *My Old Man's a Dustman*. His musical *Expensive Bongo* took a satirical swipe at the Tommy Steele-inspired phenomena of pop stars being discovered in coffee-bars, while his film, *The Day the Earth Caught Fire*, captured the anti-nuclear mood of the period.

Mankowitz was, at various times, a shopkeeper, gallery owner, scriptwriter, theatrical producer, impresario, television performer, nightclub owner, librettist, restaurateur, ceramic encyclopaedist, historian of Wedgwood pottery and university lecturer.

Cyril Wolf Mankowitz was the son of a Russian Jewish émigré who ran a cap stall and secondhand business. As soon as he could walk, Mankowitz was in the market, which he later recalled as a pitch battle — "a battle for your pitch, against the police, the customer, life, everything."

He attended East Ham Grammar School and from there won a scholarship to Downing College, Cambridge, where his tutor was F. R. Leavis. On graduating he simultaneously set about lecturing, editing various literary magazines and building up his own antiques business. He promptly won the Society of Authors' award for poetry, but was to write poetry only sporadically during the rest of his life, and published only one collection: *12 Poems* in 1971.

He once said that from the age of 15 he had aimed to make a living as a professional writer, and was prepared to take on anything so long as it would pay. His first novel, *Make Me An Offer* (1952), was about a sharp Wedgwood dealer in pursuit of a replica of the Portland Vase. He later adapted it as a musical play, which was successfully staged in the West End. This was followed in 1953 by the novel *A Kid for Two Farthings* (filmed two years later).

The cinema proved both naturally attractive and financially rewarding, and Mankowitz wrote screenplays not only for his own work, but for such diverse projects as *The Millionaire* from Shaw's late play, *Starting Sophia* (Loren and Peter Sellers), *Waltz of the Toreadors* (from the novel by Jean



Once the rising hope of the British musical theatre, Mankowitz, seen here in 1991, did not fulfil his potential.

Anouilh), *Casino Royale* and *Black Beauty*, as well as his own favourite, *The Day the Earth Caught Fire*.

Alongside his film and stage work, Mankowitz's antiques and porcelain business was thriving, and in *Wedgwood* (1953, third reprint 1980), *An Encyclopaedia of English Pottery and Porcelain* (1957) and the monograph *The Portland Vase and the Wedgwood Copies* (1953), these two strands of his life came together.

Although his non-fiction works and his biographies — which included *Dickens of London* (1976) and *The Extraordinary Mr Poe* (1978) — were popular, a number of reviewers observed that accuracy and scholarship sometimes came second to readability and style. His fiction too were met with only qualified critical approval. *Raspberry Reich* (1979), featuring the discovery of a Marxist cell in an exclusive Swiss finishing school for girls, was regarded as an excellent idea marred by being relentlessly overworked.

The stage success of *The Bespoke Overcoat*, *Expensive Bongo* and *Make Me An Offer*, and his association with Joan Littlewood and the Theatre Workshop, led Mankowitz to take on the role of impresario for his own shows and for others, including Chris-

topher Logue. He wrote several more musicals, including *Belle* (1961), *Pickwick* (1963), *Passion Flower Hotel* (1965) and *Stand and Deliver!* (1972). Of his later plays, *The Irish Hebrew Lesson* (1978) was for a time a fixture on the London fringe.

Although he claimed his only recreation was sleeping, Mankowitz was a tireless traveller and generally had two or three addresses simultaneously. In the 1960s he lived for a time in Barbados. He bought a house in Co Cork in the Irish Republic in 1971 and remained officially a resident of that country, with its generous approach to the taxation of authors, until his death. The move came immediately after he lost an appeal against an Inland Revenue claim for back taxes and penalties amounting to thousands of pounds. Later that year, he was appointed *Honorary Consul in Dublin* to the Republic of Panama, a sinecure in which he took great delight.

In 1972 he sold his share in the family antiques business, and during the 1970s he wrote less prolifically, being troubled by ill-health, in particular a disorder of the pancreas, which was pronounced incurable in 1984. In 1981 his problems with the Inland Revenue, dating back to his years of peak

success, reached a climax of sorts when he was declared bankrupt, with tax debts of £53,000 and total debts of almost £70,000.

In 1982 he was appointed adjunct professor of English at the University of New Mexico, a post he held until 1986, when he became adjunct professor of theatre arts for the following two years. He lived for much of the year in Santa Fe during this time, publishing several novels, including *The Devil in Texas* (1984), *Giocanda* (1987), *The Magic Cabinet of Professor Smucker* (1988), and a scandalous, surrealist novel, *Exquisite Cadaver* (1990).

On the publication in 1991 of *A Night with Casanova* Mankowitz disclosed that terminal cancer had been diagnosed, and that he would write no more books. This last novel was a sardonic fantasy on the theme of mortality featuring *Casanova* — in the last year of his life — meeting the Wandering Jew who is condemned to life everlasting. Written as a monologue in five sections, it was praised as a bawdy miniature *tour de force* and a suitable vehicle for Mankowitz's personal philosophical summing-up.

He married Ann Margaret Seligmann in 1944 and is survived by her and three sons of the marriage.

REAR-ADMIRAL NEVILLE CURREY

Rear-Admiral Neville Currey, CB, DSO, DSC, wartime destroyer captain, died on May 2 aged 91. He was born on October 1, 1906.



CONTINUOUSLY at sea throughout the Second World War, Rear-Admiral Neville Currey commanded three destroyers, took part in many famous campaigns and earned a reputation as a fine fighting seaman.

He was first mentioned in dispatches when commanding the destroyer *Wrestler* during the British landings at Harstad in Norway, as part of operations in the Narvik area, in mid-April 1940. But British, French, Polish and Norwegian attempts to prevent the Germans surrounding the town ended in failure, and the Allied troops had to be evacuated under persistent air attacks early in June.

Wrestler was immediately sent to Gibraltar where she joined Admiral Somerville's highly active Force H. This was shortly to be engaged in painful negotiations with powerful units of the French fleet at Mers-el-Kebir about what they should do to prevent their falling into German hands after the French surrender. On July 3, after the expiry of an ultimatum calling for demilitarisation, Force H attacked the French ships lying in harbour and immobilised many, killing some 1,300 French sailors.

In October, *Wrestler* and *Firedrake*, assisted by RAF flying boats, forced to the surface and then sank the Italian submarine *Durbo* near the Strait of Gibraltar. A boarding party was able to capture operational documents which revealed that a second Italian submarine was in the area. An extensive search was mounted and eventually resulted in the sinking of the *LaFolle* two days later. Currey was awarded the DSC for his contribution.

During the early part of 1941 *Wrestler* took part in a number of Force H's actions. These included an attack on the Sardinian capital, Cagliari, the reinforcement of Malta with Spitfire fighters, and *Operation Tiger*. This last was a vital convoy resulting from Churchill's bold decision to send tank reinforcements to *Wavell's* hard-pressed troops in Egypt, direct through the Mediterranean under the noses of the Luftwaffe and the Italian Air Force, rather than round the Cape, so saving 40 days. In

spite of Admiralty scepticism, four of the five ships arrived safely, carrying 238 desperately needed tanks.

Returning home to take command of *HMS Escapade*, Currey took part in Home Fleet operations, during which he recorded as the most alarming experience of his life an occasion when *Escapade* — a relatively small (and old) destroyer of only 1,350 tons — was nearly capsized by a freak wave during a gale in the treacherous waters of the Pentland Firth. He was appointed to the brand-new 2,000-ton destroyer *Musketeer* in 1943, and employed on convoy duty both in the Arctic, running vital supplies to Russia, and in the North Atlantic against the U-boat threat.

Musketeer was part of the escort for the inbound Convoy SC143 which had sailed from Halifax, Nova Scotia, at the end of September 1943. In the second week of October in mid-Atlantic the 39-ship convoy was determinedly assailed by the *Rosbach* group of 18 U-boats, of which eight found the convoy.

However, thanks to a determined defence which included searches and attacks by Liberators and a Sunderland, only two ships were sunk, one of which was the Polish-manned destroyer *Orkan* (formerly *HMS Myrmidon*) and a sister ship to *Musketeer* by an acoustic torpedo. Currey now brought *Musketeer* to the aid of her sister ship and was awarded the Polish Gold Cross of Merit with Swords for rescuing nearly all her crew from the water.

Back on Arctic convoys in December 1943, Currey escorted Convoy JW55 to Murmansk. This was the convoy

that acted as bait for the entrapment and sinking of the German battleship *Scharnhorst* on December 26, 1943.

He was awarded his DSO for his part in the success of the D-Day landings at Ouistreham on the east of the British sector. An extremely modest man, Currey would never talk about his own wartime experiences, but he did on this occasion express a certain admiration for the commanding officer of a famous cavalry regiment who would not disembark to the beach until the safety of his personal wine cellar had been assured.

Joining the naval college at Osborne in 1921 and the Royal Naval College Dartmouth in 1922, Neville Currey subsequently served as a junior officer up to the outbreak of war in Mediterranean Fleet battleships, an aircraft carrier, several destroyers, and — curiously by today's specialist standards — four different submarines. Two of these were of the notorious "K" class, their unique steam propulsion a brainchild of the reformist Admiral Fisher, who required them to be able to achieve "fleet speed" on the surface. The large number of hull openings that were required made them a hazardous proposition.

Currey's postwar career included command of two frigates, the naval air station at Lee-on-the-Solent and the cruiser *Bermuda*. For two years from 1950 he was attached to the British Naval Mission in Greece, which furthered the integration of the Greek Navy with the newly formed Nato Alliance.

As an assistant to the Second Sea Lord, he played a leading part in the reduction and restructuring of naval personnel following the large cuts in defence expenditure of the late 1950s. A contemporary records Currey's unflappable and consideration for others in those stressful times. He was appointed CB in 1960.

Having represented Dartmouth in all the major team sports, Currey kept up his athletic interests around the world, playing rugby for the Royal Navy, cricket at Malta, polo in China and shooting in Greece. He played golf well into his eighties.

He was introduced to his wife Rosemary in Gibraltar by the actor Anthony Quayle in 1940, and they were married the next year. She died in 1992. He is survived by their daughter.

BILLY STRACHAN

Billy Strachan, former Senior Chief Clerk to the Justices for London West Central Division, died on April 26 aged 77. He was born on April 16, 1921.

BILLY STRACHAN was a revered figure in the movements for Caribbean independence after the Second World War. Although he never sought political office or publicity and spent the whole of his adult life in England, he profoundly influenced the course and direction of Caribbean politics. He

was also involved in British political life and was a lawyer and a prolific writer.

He had been a bomber pilot during the war and claimed to be the first ethnic West Indian to be commissioned as an officer in the RAF.

William Arthur Watkin Strachan was born in Kingston, Jamaica. His father was the manager of a tobacco company and the family lived in an affluent area of the city. He attended Wolmers' Boys School, but was a mischievous and rebellious pupil. He was

not noted as a scholar or athlete, but he was a high-spirited young man who loved sport, music and dancing, and played saxophone in a band. By March 1940, his appetite for adventure and determination to learn to fly led him, in the face of parental opposition, to sell his treasured possessions — his saxophone and bicycle — to raise the fare to England to join the RAF.

His natural qualities of leadership and infectious enthusiasm ensured rapid progress. He was commis-

sioned in 1942, becoming a valuable asset in the drive to recruit West Indian volunteers. He suffered serious hip injuries as a result of a crash in that year, but he bore the resulting lifelong disability with characteristic fortitude.

Towards the end of the war his energies were devoted to working as a welfare officer for West Indian airmen. In this role, attendance at various courts martial gave him his first taste of the law.

On demobilisation he returned to Jamaica with his

wife, Joyce, and young family, but they remained there only briefly. The inequalities imposed and encouraged by the social and political structures, the so-called "shade bar", and his increasing political awareness and activism led him to return to London in 1947.

He studied accountancy and then law, also becoming involved in the colonial independence and trade union movements. He worked alongside such activists as Rajani Palme Dutt, D. N. Pritt, and Claudia Jones. He was a founder member with, among others, Ferner Brockway, Kay Beauchamp and Tony Gilbert, of the Movement for Colonial Freedom (now known as Liberation).

In 1952 he and his fellow Jamaican trade unionist Ferdinand Smith toured the anglophone Caribbean islands to promote independence and union solidarity throughout the region. They were greeted enthusiastically by the workers of the islands, who even composed a calypso about them. However, they were barred by the colonial authorities from visiting several islands and were detained and then deported from Trinidad. On leaving the Caribbean they



Billy Strachan in the RAF in 1944

were also detained by the authorities in New York.

Undeterred, Strachan continued to work for Caribbean independence and unity alongside young men who were subsequently to become leaders of their nations: Mich-

ael Mantley, Errol Barrow, Granley Adams and, above all, his lifelong friend Cheddi Jagan. From his small Kilmarnock flat he helped to produce one of the early precursors of the British black press, *Caribbean News*.

Called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in 1959, he joined the Magistrates' Courts Service as a Clerk to the Justices. He produced many articles on a variety of legal topics for legal journals as well as textbooks such as *The Drinking Driver and the Law* and *Matrimonial Proceedings in Magistrates Courts*.

Although less politically active in his last years, he maintained an interest in the politics and economics of the Caribbean and remained a passionate believer in Caribbean unity. As a mentor and adviser to students and researchers into Caribbean history, he gave unstintingly of his time and energy.

His friendship with Cheddi Jagan endured for more than forty years. Following Dr Jagan's election as President of Guyana in 1992, after 28 years in Opposition, it was with great satisfaction and pride that Strachan was able to visit his old friend in 1994 and again in 1996 — when he drew up a report on the judicial system for the British Government.

He is survived by his three sons — all, like him, members of the Inner Temple — and by his second wife Mary.

TICKETS FOR SALE, UK HOLIDAYS, CORPORATE HOSPITALITY, MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, FLATSHARE, FLIGHTS DIRECTORY, WANTED, PRINCESS DIANA AUTOGRAPHS WANTED

JETLINE, FARESAVERS, FLIGHTWIDE, JETWORLD, DELTA WORLDWIDE, SYDNEY £463, PERTH £463, BANGKOK £390, NAIROBI £280, NEW YORK £231, MELBOURNE £463, AUCKLAND £609, BALI £459, JO'BURG £336, LOS ANGELES £328

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CHILDREN ON DIALYSIS, THE TIMES OPENING TIMES AND DEADLINES FOR BIRTH, MARRIAGE & DEATH NOTICES

RAJIV GANDHI KILLED IN BOMB BLAST, ON THIS DAY May 22, 1991, security forces to move from one area to another in an attempt to maintain order. Violence broke out in several areas of India last night as news of the assassination spread.

NEWS

Unions accuse ministers of betrayal

Millions of people were promised fresh safeguards yesterday against unfair dismissal, new rights to be represented by trade unions and longer maternity leave in the biggest overhaul of employment law for more than a decade.

Aitken accused of perverting justice

Jonathan Aitken was charged yesterday with perverting the course of justice, which carries a maximum sentence of life imprisonment. The former Cabinet minister was also charged with perjury and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice.

Baby's mystery death

Police are investigating whether a new-born baby who died after being given mild peppermint water for wind was dispensed the wrong medicine at Boots the chemist.

Indonesian promise

Justif Habibie, Indonesia's new President, promised his people a clean government and no let up in political reform when he addressed his shell-shocked country.

War of the Welles

A dispute has broken out between the daughter of Orson Welles and the studio that restored one of his masterpieces.

Campaign for peace

There is not a British station with the pulling power of BBC Radio Ulster right now. By 7.20am yesterday Tony Blair, William Hague and Paddy Ashdown had all appeared on it.

More wait for beds

Hospital waiting lists have grown to a record 1,297,700, according to official figures.

Son of McVicar

The son of John McVicar, the former armed robber, is facing a lengthy prison sentence for a four-year string of violent raids.

Safety on the cheap

A cut-price rail safety system was unveiled as senior inspectors said that it was "not reasonably practicable" to introduce the best available option.

US takes precautions

President Clinton will order the stockpiling of vaccines and antibiotics as a protection against a germ warfare attack on the United States.

Depardieu 'five times over limit'

The French actor, Gérard Depardieu, 49, was five times over the drink-driving limit when he crashed his motorcycle this week, according to police blood tests.



Sharon Stone, in Cannes yesterday, arrives for the screening of her film, The Mighty, by the British director Peter Chelsom

BUSINESS

Pound falls: The pound slumped to its lowest level for more than six months in reaction to dovish comments on the economy by Eddie George.

PolyGram bid: Seagram was poised to acquire PolyGram, the London-based record and film company, from Philips Electronics for about \$10.5 billion.

Thomson inquiry: The Securities and Futures Authority has widened its inquiry into the problems encountered in the Thomson Travel share flotation.

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 28.2 to 5935.6. On the foreign exchange the pound rose .07 cents to \$1.6322, but fell 1.83 pence to DM2.8691. The sterling index fell to 102.4 from 102.0.

SPORT

Cricket: South Africa won the Texaco one-day international at the Oval by three wickets with eight balls to spare after England had scored 223 for nine.

Football: Gianfranco Zola, Chelsea's match winner in the Cup Winners' Cup final, has been excluded from Italy's World Cup squad. There is no place either for Gigi Casiraghi.

Motor racing: Ricardo Rosset, the Tyrrell driver, angered Jacques Villeneuve when he crashed into him during practice for the Monaco Grand Prix.

Hockey: Holland delighted the home supporters when they came from 2-1 behind at half time to defeat England 3-2 in the women's World Cup in Utrecht.

ARTS

Broadway's best: Looking for a New York show that isn't a British export, Benedict Nightingale tries High Society, Arthur Miller's latest and a revived Follies.

Culture club: "Fifteen prime luvies - the top drawer of British theatre - all alienated at a stroke": Richard Morrison on the Arts Council sitcom.

Pop 1: David Sinclair reviews the week's pop album releases and Caitlin Moran strokes the funny Welsh Super Furry Animals; plus jazz and blues albums.

Pop 2: Robbie Williams blossoms into major stardom in front of 3,500 fans in his home city of Manchester; plus Tori Amos in Liverpool and Flaming Lips in London.

FEATURES

Pack It In: "I am a hopeless packer. Weeks before I go away, I am gripped by a frenzy of panic and indecision over what to take."

Hacked off: Is President Clinton's development of task forces to combat information warfare too little too late? After all, hackers say they could cripple the Internet in a matter of minutes.

Deep end: Are student teachers thrust into the classroom with too little help?

Comedy kindergarten: Radio 4 has only just dropped Week Ending but already it seems to have found a new programme with the potential to nurture new comedy writing talent.

Peace, please: Raymond Sooddy talks to a broadcast journalist who has covered the Ulster story for 25 years and hopes to write his peaceful conclusion.

Having reconquered his own party, Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, has to reconquer the heart of his country before the next elections, with the help of his heir apparent, Wolfgang Schäuble.



ANNE ROBINSON When tough questioning is better than sex

TOMORROW

IN THE SATURDAY TIMES

ANNE ROBINSON

When tough questioning is better than sex

PLUS

20 per cent off classic shirts for men and women

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,798

A crossword puzzle grid with numbers in the starting squares. The grid is 15 squares wide and 15 squares high.

Answers to the crossword puzzle. The answers are listed in a grid format corresponding to the puzzle grid.

Latest Road and Weather conditions

Table with 2 columns: Region and Conditions. Lists road status and weather for various UK regions.

Weather by Fax

Table with 2 columns: Location and Weather. Provides weather forecasts for various cities.

World City Weather

Table with 2 columns: City and Weather. Provides weather forecasts for major world cities.

Car reports by fax

Table with 2 columns: Car Model and Price. Lists car models and their prices.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Table with 2 columns: Location and Hours of Darkness. Lists the hours of darkness for various locations.

General: most places dry with sunny spells

Channel in SW England: dry, long sunny spells. Light to moderate NE wind. Max 18C (64F).

London, SE, Cent S England, Midlands: sunny spells

London, SE, Cent S England, Midlands: sunny spells. Light N wind. Max 18C (64F).

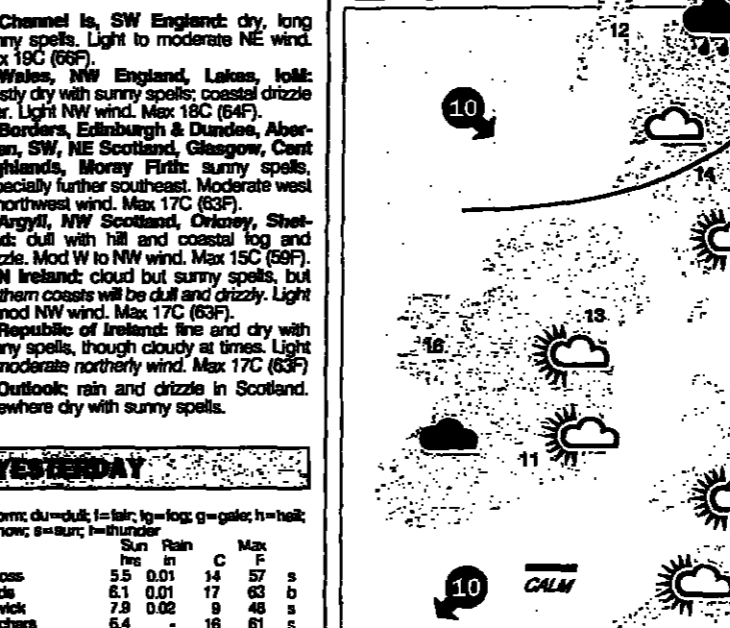
Channel in SW England: dry, long sunny spells

Channel in SW England: dry, long sunny spells. Light to moderate NE wind. Max 18C (64F).

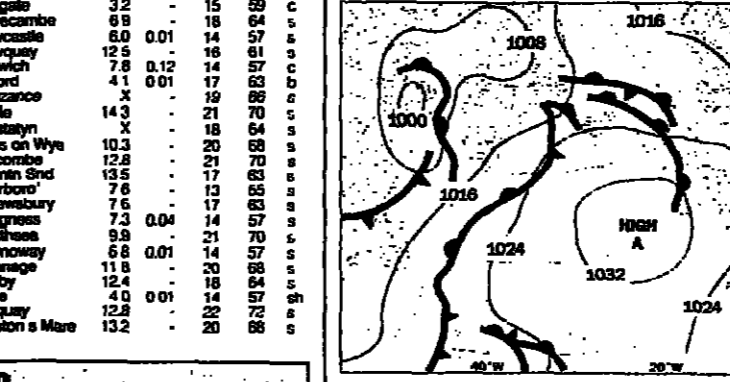
General: most places dry with sunny spells

Channel in SW England: dry, long sunny spells. Light to moderate NE wind. Max 18C (64F).

MOON TODAY



HIGH TIDES



HIGHEST & LOWEST

Table with 4 columns: Location, AM, HT, PM, HT. Lists the highest and lowest temperatures for various locations.

A large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page. It features a woman's face and text including 'INSIDE SECTION 2 TODAY', 'Seagra agrees \$10.6bn price for PolyGra', and 'A DRY SPELL The international bestseller by Susie Moloney'.

BRAL to buy ten aircraft

British Regional Air Lines, the UK short-haul company set for a £90 million flotation, intends to buy ten more small aircraft if it succeeds in raising £50 million by listing.

The company, which demerged from British Midlands last year, intends to buy another ten ERJ145 jet aircraft — which are small enough to find landing spaces during peak hours in busy airports. It has options to buy another five, which would increase the overall size of its fleet from 46 to 61.

The company made a pre-tax profit of £4.21 million (£1.39 million) in 1997, on sales of £165 million (£136 million) on routes which stretch from the Shetland Islands to Jersey. Dealings in the shares are due to begin next month.

GRE expands

Guardian Royal Exchange, the insurance group, has strengthened its grip on the buoyant private healthcare sector by buying Medical & Industrial Services, a specialist provider of health management services to medium-sized companies. The deal follows GRE's £435 million acquisition of PPP Healthcare last December.

GRE is believed to have paid less than £10 million for MIS, which is based in Eastbourne. The deal makes it the biggest provider of corporate healthcare.

Deal chief

David Varney, the chief executive of BG, was yesterday appointed chairman of London's New Deal Employer Coalition, one of ten groups around the country that aim to encourage local employers to become involved in the New Deal and to improve the quality and relevance of the programme to business.

SB action

SmithKline Beecham is planning a legal action to prevent TorPharm, a Canadian company, producing a generic form of Paxil, the SB antidepressant that had sales of almost £900 million last year.

Three Butte directors jailed for defrauding investors

By Jon Ashworth

THREE former directors of Butte Mining were jailed yesterday at the Old Bailey for defrauding investors over the 1987 stock market flotation of the mining group.

Clive Smith and John Clarke were each jailed for three years, and disqualified from serving as directors for five years. Malcolm Clews was sentenced to 18 months. He was not disqualified.

A fourth defendant, Roy Bichan, the former Butte non-

executive chairman, was acquitted at the conclusion of an 11-month trial brought by the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) with the City of London Police. The jury of seven men and three women deliberated for 66 hours — nearly 20 hours longer than in the 1996 Maxwell trial, which was thought to set a record for a jury retirement.

Rosalind Wright, the SFO director, was in court for sentencing. Smith, 51, aided by Clarke and Clews, exaggerated the value of workings at a

mine in Butte, Montana, when seeking to attract investors to the £60 million stock market issue.

Personal funds were invested but not disclosed. Millions in gains were dispersed through a web of offshore companies.

The fraud came to light in July 1992, when police raided a Jersey-based firm of accountants and seized "sacks and sacks" of incriminating documents.

Arrests followed in 1995. Smith's co-defendants were

directors of Robertson Research, a mining consultancy based in Llandudno, which prepared a report on Butte's potential.

Sentencing the men, the judge, Mr Justice Newman, said their dishonesty constituted "a flagrant disregard of the law specifically designed to protect investors".

In submissions before sentencing, the court heard that Smith, a self-made man, had suffered greatly from the stress of a long trial. Having made millions in the 1970s and

1980s, the wheel had "turned full circle" and he was made bankrupt in March.

In 1996, Smith received a two-year directors' ban in Scotland in connection with a company that went into liquidation in 1989. The court heard that the four weeks of the jury retirement had "put tremendous pressure on the defendants and Smith in particular". It was a length of time which was "quite unprecedented".

City Diary, page 31

PowerGen seeks over £300m from gas assets sale

By Carl Mortished

POWERGEN said yesterday that it hoped to raise over £300 million from the sale of its North Sea and Liverpool Bay gas assets but it was not nearer to achieving its ambition of a deal with a substantial American partner.

The company said it was prepared to shed further non-core assets as it revealed that profits and a continuing slide in its share of the UK electricity market, falling from 21 per cent to 19 per cent last year. However, Ed Wallis, chief executive, admitted that the company had made little progress in the United States. "Everybody is talking to everybody but these deals are very difficult to put together."

PowerGen has written down the value of its Isle of Grain power station by £396 million because of a fall in capacity payments to keep the oil-fired generator on standby. The company will also suffer a £60 million hit to its margin due to the introduction of new supply contracts to the electricity distributors struck at lower prices.

Mr Wallis said that PowerGen was still keen to buy a regional electricity company in the UK. However, he rejected any suggestion that a link might be made between support for the coal industry and a relaxation of the rule barring vertical integration of generators with RECs. Mr Wallis said that security of fuel supply meant diversity of supply for electricity generators.

PowerGen's profits before exceptional items rose from £575 million to £580 million in the year to March but profits in the core UK business fell from £564 million to £561 million. PowerGen is paying a 29p dividend for the year, up from 25.2p.

The North Sea oil and gas business raised its contribution from £15 million to £22 million. However, Mr Wallis said it was a double or quits business and the money needed to invest in gas would be better invested in the core business. PowerGen has appointed SBC Warburg Dillon Read to find a buyer.



Christmas cheer: Creative Publishing's orders for cards are "comfortably ahead of last year" as Keith Brown, finance director, left, and Matthew Sharp, chief executive, report £20.5 million operating profits, up £2.4 million and a 5.75p dividend

ICI reveals plans to float Eutech consultancy

By Carl Mortished

ICI is planning to float off Eutech, its engineering consultancy. The 500-strong team of engineers and industry specialists was formed five years ago in an effort to secure non-ICI business and today earns half of its income from outside the group.

ICI has appointed Hawkpoint, the corporate finance arm of NatWest, to advise on a flotation within the next two years. Eutech made pre-tax profits last year of £2.97 million on revenues of £44 million which were 28 per cent up on the previous year's sales.

Eutech has more than 150 customers and sells project management and consultancy services in engineering and manufacturing including safety audits and performance benchmarking. ICI said yesterday that the flotation was being announced early to ensure that it has the ability to stand on its own before sale, with a sufficient track record for potential investors.

ICI said yesterday that it had not decided whether it would retain a shareholding in the company. On its current level of profits the company might be valued at £40 million to £50 million on flotation.

Len Weaver, the chairman of Eutech, said: "The prospect of flotation will enable the company to assume greater control of its own destiny and to progress at an even faster rate."

Government to allow dial-an-Isa

By Gavin Lumsden

THE Government is to usher in a new electronic era in financial services when it launches individual savings accounts next year.

In a bid to ensure that the new accounts are taken up by millions of new savers, the Government has decided to allow people to open the new account either electronically or over the phone.

The move will be a massive boost to tentative attempts by fund managers, banks and building societies to exploit the potential of the new methods of communication, such as the Internet.

It goes way beyond the Government's original plan to exploit swipe technology to enable people to put money into individual savings accounts while checking out at a supermarket.

In a radical break with tradition, the Inland Revenue has stated in its new individual savings accounts regulations that "most communication between the investor and the provider need not be in writing".

Information currently written down on application forms can be adequately delivered over the phone, over the Internet or even via a television set, the Inland Revenue believes.

One idea being pursued is to send savers a declaration containing the information. No response from the saver would be taken as confirmation of the data.

The Inland Revenue will consult with the industry until June 26 on how the system could be made secure and prevent fraud.

Computacenter sees shares jump by 14%

By Fraser Nelson

COMPUTACENTER became one of this year's most successful new issues yesterday after its shares jumped 14 per cent on the first day of trading to value the computer supplies company at £1.31 billion.

The company's shares, placed at 670p, closed at 766p in the grey market on exceptionally heavy trading. The placing was more than ten times oversubscribed.

The successful debut added £2.46 million to the value of the shares held by Mike Norris, the chief executive. His 15 per cent holding is worth £19.6 million.

About 30 other managers

have also become paper millionaires after the flotation.

Philip Hulme and Peter Ogden, the company's founders, have sold £6.9 million worth of shares. Mr Hulme has set aside all of his £3.5 million stake in a charitable trust. Mr Ogden will set aside £2.4 million for charity.

About 3,300 employees have been given free shares in packages that range between £190 and £2,020 depending on their length of service.

Mr Norris said: "We may be diluting the capital by giving away all these free shares, but wider share ownership should make a better business."

BAT may be hit by new \$100m claim

BAT, the cigarette maker, could face new exceptional charges of about \$100 million (£61.3 million) from US tobacco settlements (Oliver August writes).

The states of Texas and Mississippi are seeking \$3 billion on top of the \$18 billion they received from a group of US tobacco companies. Florida, which had \$11.5 billion, is said to want \$2 billion.

In March BAT said the settlements had depressed profits by 18 per cent. The new charges could lead to a restating of the results.

The demands were triggered by the \$6.6 billion settlement awarded to Minnesota earlier this month.

Gas market open tomorrow

THE last stage in the opening up of the gas market will be marked with champagne celebrations today — and a warning that deregulation could still go wrong.

More than two million more homes across the country will be free to choose their gas supplier from today, and tomorrow the last area of the country, London and Surrey, will join the open market.

Clare Spottiswoode, head of Ofgas, the industry regulator, will be marking the occasion with representatives from all independent gas companies.

But Neil Lambert, sales director of Calortex, warned the regulator not to "rest on her laurels" while British Gas still had a market share of more than 75 per cent. He accused British Gas of trying to "halt competition" in its

infancy and urged Ms Spottiswoode to take action. "We see a bleak future for consumers if the regulator does not act to protect the start that we have all made," he said.

British Gas said eight out of ten consumers had chosen not to switch companies and 140,000 had returned after switching temporarily because it was able to compete on price, service and products.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

RAC sets day for first vote on Cendant bid

FULL members of the Royal Automobile Club are to meet on June 19 to vote on a restructuring that will allow Cendant Corporation's £450 million bid for RAC Motoring Services to go through. The deal will give members of the Pall Mall club about £34,000 each as a windfall and will also leave £13 million to go into the existing RAC Foundation for Motoring and the Environment.

A 75 per cent majority is needed to allow any restructuring of the RAC, but approval will not release the windfall to members because the actual offer from Cendant will not be voted on until a further meeting, due in August. The £13 million donation will help the RAC to continue its public policy work, which includes lobbying and research on motoring-related and transport issues. A full circular on the sale will be posted to members next week.

Pub group calls for cash

OLD ENGLISH PUB COMPANY, the fast-growing pub operator, is raising £70 million to fund further expansion. It is raising £30.5 million via a rights issue. Shareholders are to be offered one new share for every three held at 330p a share, compared with yesterday's close of 381p, down 3p on the day. The rest is bank debt. The group said pre-tax profit rose from £1.63 million to £4.5 million in the year to March 29. Earnings were 14.61p (7.77p) a share and the dividend is 3p (2p).

Angel takes trains

ANGEL TRAINS added a £375 million rail order to its books yesterday after EW&S, Britain's largest rail freight company, asked it to take on the 280 trains it ordered last year. EW&S has decided not to finance the deal itself. By passing the account to Angel Trains, a subsidiary of the Royal Bank of Scotland, EW&S can remove the vehicles from its own balance sheet. First delivery on the order, placed in January last year, is due next month.

Birmingham Mint sold

IMI, the engineering group, has sold Birmingham Mint to a 31-backed management group for £18 million. The Birmingham Mint is Britain's only independent supplier of the euro and has a steady demand for coins and American casino tokens. Roland Verwoerd, who becomes chief executive of the Birmingham Mint Group, said: "The introduction of the euro presents considerable opportunities given that the creation of a new currency comes along very rarely."

McKechnie's £55m buy

SHARES in McKechnie rose 26p to 543p after the engineering group revealed the acquisition for £55.2 million of Arger Enterprises, the airline engine and airframe parts group based in Nevada. Andrew Walker, the chief executive of McKechnie, said: "The acquisition provides a considerable opportunity to build a stronger market presence." Arger has annual sales of \$45.4 million (£28 million) and pre-interest profits of \$11.6 million. Net assets are \$8.2 million.

VideoLogic in Sega deal

VIDEOLOGIC, the computer games chip designer, has won the contract to supply the microchips to power the next generation of Sega games consoles. VideoLogic and NEC Electronics said the PowerVR second generation technology would be used to produce the new Dreamcast consoles' 3D graphics. The Dreamcast console will be launched in Japan this November and make its debut in Europe and North America next autumn.

Abdul Latif Jameel Group

IN OUR article "Family feud poses wider worries" (March 26, 1997) we reported that Magdi Jameel had commenced legal proceedings in Saudi Arabia against his brothers Mohammed and Yousef Jameel. We regret that the report, which was based on a Citigate press release apparently issued on behalf of Magdi Jameel, was misleading insofar as it suggested the Group was in jeopardy and that Mohammed and Yousef Jameel had acted to the detriment of the other family members. Yesterday Times Newspapers apologised to the Abdul Latif Jameel Group for this and paid its legal costs and damages.

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White papering over the cracks

COMMENTARY by our City Editor



After all the agonising, the White Paper on workplace reforms has emerged. It bears some signs of the trauma that surrounded its formulation, as the Government sought to produce a formula that would appease two parties who each believed they had been made opposing promises.

The result is, inevitably, compromise. Business would have been appalled at the prospect of trade union recognition being enforced upon companies if a simple majority of the workforce voted for it. Insistence on a minimum of 40 per cent being keen enough to bother voting in favour was yesterday being greeted with relative sangfroid by companies, and even the Institute of Directors could not muster much vociferous scaremongering as to the dire effects that would ensue.

But this slap in the face to Bill Morris and his colleagues is swiftly followed by a compensating blow to business. Taking the cap off awards that can be made by industrial tribunals is at the least going to encourage an increase in the number of disaffected employees who decide to chance their luck in front of an unpredictable panel. With the prospect of sky-high bills should they lose the case, companies will be tempted to pay off those who threaten them with the tribunal.

even if such a payment is unjustified.

This does not sound like the ideal partnership in the work place which was being heralded by Mrs Beckett yesterday, as she discussed the White Paper. Major companies, however, have been moving towards just such a mode of working without the intervention of the President of the Board of Trade. The "us and them" attitudes which characterised British industry has been largely banished. Enlightened self interest has persuaded companies to place the emphasis on encouraging communication rather than conflict with staff.

Employee share schemes have been enthusiastically adopted by most major companies, with the result that employees' interests are more closely aligned with those of shareholders.

Turning workers into shareholders will not prevent staff dreaming of exaggerated pay rises but it does make it easier for them to come to terms with disappointment.

After being battered by Mrs Thatcher's crucial trade union reforms, unions can be expected

to try to re-establish themselves in companies, even if that entails surmounting the 40 per cent threshold. Optimists will hope that the unions, once recognised, will behave as the responsible partners Mrs Beckett promises. Business may be best able to ensure that attitude by further enshrining the idea of staff as shareholders.

Ethical policies that really work

Was Robin Cook's much-trumpeted ethical foreign policy worth the hype? Even if it is carried out successfully, the main benefit will be felt at home, making voters feel good, rather than in people's lives abroad.

The opposite is true of Britain's top multinationals. Their invest-

ments and operations abroad can bring Western standards to third world people faster and more effectively than any other means. But their efforts face suspicion and constant criticism in their home country.

That is why the mechanism can work so well, as was illustrated at the House of Commons yesterday. Well-drilled chaps from BP, Unilever, Shell and Rio Tinto were hauled before the Foreign Affairs Select Committee to tell how Mr Cook's initiative was revolutionising their lives. Not at all, it turned out.

Such world-class companies live in a challenging Anglo-Saxon culture. They have been obliged for some years to eschew the habits of holidaymakers and operate abroad more or less to the standards they would pretend to at home. A network of international support and pres-

sure groups is there to report and protest about their failures back home. Even Mr Cook's manifesto owes something to the corporate statements of principle appearing in recent years.

Thus Shell could justly claim that it loses business by operating a no-bribes policy abroad, without naming the less scrupulous continental rivals to whom it tends to lose contracts. And Unilever could point out that it boycotts Burma.

In the course of questioning, however, Tory MP Sir John Stanley elicited that they did not have consistent policies for minimum ages for employees round the world, beyond the UN Declaration of Human Rights and were pretty ragged on equal rights for women. This was a valuable exercise. Some adjustments will doubtless be made. A few querulous questions in a

stuffy Westminster committee room will actually improve life for a few people on the other side of the world. That is why Anglo-Saxon multinationals, once gilded as tools of Western imperialism, are now among the best friends of the developing world.

Mothercare lags — and no kidding

Everyone knows children are expensive, and most people are prepared to spend what they can when they arrive. All too often, they prefer not to spend it at Mothercare. Despite all the paraphernalia offered — all of it flagged "essential" — Mothercare goods are quite resistant to many spendthrift new parents.

It ought to be the destination shop, but lost that position long ago and shows little sign of regaining it. Other retailers have spotted the potential: Boots is homing in with a catalogue while Toys "R" Us has launched a chain of equally irritatingly named Baby "R" Us stores.

Greg Tuftnell, recently brought

in as Mothercare's managing director, has an impeccable CV, having worked at both Next and Burton. He has not yet had the time to make big improvements, but he needs to, and fast.

Over at Bhs the idea of improving children's clothing sales by selling branded sportswear from the grey market is probably too little, too late, while inventing new brands is unlikely to impress the fashion-conscious young. Sales in other areas are showing signs of improvement, but it was telling that the company claims it has seen the greatest Bhs improvements in the towns where Littlewoods has pulled out. This gives it a nice little breathing space, but the oxygen may vanish once Marks & Spencer opens up in the old Littlewoods sites.

Hard to swallow

SINCE Coca Cola Beverages has decided to list in London rather than any other European exchange, its burlings met with a charitable response in the City yesterday. But repetition of one line should not be encouraged. The bottling company's chief executive Neville Isdell aims to convert people from drinking non-commercial beverages to sipping his products. Translated, this means he wants them to stop drinking tap water.

Vosper falls sharply on warning

SHARES of Vosper Thornycroft, driven higher by takeover speculation earlier this year, fell sharply yesterday after the shipbuilding and engineering company warned the City of difficulties in securing new warship orders (Martin Barrow writes).

The shares fell 27½p to 86p even though Vosper reported a 7 per cent rise in annual pre-tax profits to £32.8 million.

However, Lord Wakeham, chairman, said several export prospects in the Middle East and Asia were being delayed.

Earnings were 66.9p a share, up from 61.9p. The dividend is increased 10 per cent to 28.6p with a final 20.35p. *Tempus, page 30*

Bass to reap benefits of £4bn deal frenzy

By DOMINIC WALSH

BASS, the brewing and leisure giant, is to lift its capital expenditure by £200 million to about £800 million a year as it seeks to reap the benefits of its recent deal frenzy.

Sir Ian Prosser, chairman, said last year's £600 million investment programme would be boosted by £100 million this year and another £100 million in 1999, with about £200 million being pumped into its enlarged hotels division.

This follows six months in which Bass completed almost £4 billion worth of deals, collecting £1.23 billion from the sale of businesses such as Gala bingo clubs and Coral betting shops while buying Inter-Continental Hotels (ICH) for £1.77

billion. It also returned £801 million to shareholders.

Sir Ian said that some of ICH's \$2 billion worth of assets would be sold over time to fund further acquisitions. He said the future of Forum Hotels, which came with the ICH deal, was also being reviewed and it was possible the 25 Forums, including the 910-room London Forum, would be rebranded under the Holiday Inn and Holiday Inn Express brands.

The dramatic reshaping of the group into three core businesses — hotels and resorts, branded drinks and leisure retailing — restricted profits before tax and exceptional items to £307 million in the half-year to April 11 — down from £309 million — although

adjusted earnings per share came in 8.3 per cent better at 26p and the interim dividend is lifted to 9.1p (8.3p). Underlying profits from the three divisions rose 10 per cent.

The hotels division, which includes no contribution from ICH, lifted operating profits 11 per cent to £67 million, with a strong performance in Europe more than making up for a small loss in Asia. Within leisure retail, managed pubs reported a 13.6 per cent rise in underlying profits. In branded drinks, which lifted profits 4.7 per cent to £89 million, Bass Brewers lifted UK beer volumes 0.5 per cent in a market almost 1 per cent down, with Carling up 11.3 per cent.

Tempus, page 30

Southnews advertising revenues up

SOUTHNEWS, the local newspaper group, said yesterday that it saw no sign of an end to the boom in advertising revenue (Raymond Snoddy writes).

Garth Clark, chairman, said the financial year had started "particularly well" and advertising revenues for the first half looked as if they might increase by 15 per cent year-on-year.

Southnews, which publishes 58 paid-for and free newspapers in London and the Home Counties, earned record pre-tax profits of £7.4 million in year to March 28, up 17 per cent. Revenues rose 16 per cent to £43.6 million.

Earnings rose 19 per cent to 31.61p a share. A final dividend of 6.5p makes a total of 9.5p, up 23 per cent.

Capital pulls out of national digital radio consortium

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

CAPITAL RADIO, the commercial radio and restaurant group, is to pull out of a consortium planning to bid for a national digital radio franchise.

Capital was researching the project with Emap, the radio and magazine group, NTL, the cable TV group, and Daily Mail and General Trust. Its share of the costs would have been between £2 and £3 million and David Mansfield, the chief executive, said he could see no sign of the money coming back in any acceptable timescale.

Capital announced a 7 per cent underlying increase in pre-tax profits to £18.1 million

in the six months to the end of March on turnover up 11.7 per cent to £55.6 million. Exceptional items, largely a £9 million profit on the disposal of radio interests and a £963,000 charge for the failed take-over of Virgin Radio, produced £7.5 million in pre-tax profits.

The City liked what Jan Irvine, the chairman, called "an encouraging" first half and the fact that the company had rid itself of loss-making restaurants in Germany even if it was "for a nominal sum". The share price rose 14p to 684p.

Tempus, page 30

Iceland to extend home shopping

ICELAND plans to extend its home shopping trial to 300 stores in London, Scotland and Northern Ireland after seeing good results from trials (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Malcolm Walker, chairman of the frozen food retailer, told shareholders at the annual meeting yesterday that sales have continued to grow strongly in the first four months of the financial year. Like-for-like sales in the 19 weeks to date are up 14 per cent.

He said that this is likely to slow, however, as comparisons with last year are set to become more testing. The home delivery service, which is now available in all stores, is continuing to go well, he said.

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Greenwich boosted by Desire as FTSE rises

BUYING a stake in Desire Petroleum has been more lucrative than winning the National Lottery for little Greenwich Resources. Its shares shot up 9 1/2 p, or 32 per cent, to 38p yesterday as brokers continued to evaluate the 13.85 per cent stake it holds in this week's star performer, Desire.

At the start of this week when Desire stood at 175 1/2 p, the 6.55 million shares were worth £11.5 million. By the close of business last night, after Desire had surged a further 10 1/2 p to 44p, the value of the holding had grown to £27.1 million.

Behind it all is Desire's stake in an oilfield offshore of the Falkland Islands which is yielding promising traces of hydrocarbons. Share prices generally managed to extend this week's gains. It briefly launched a fresh assault on the 6,000 level, but best levels were not held and the FTSE 100 index saw its lead reduced to 23.2 at 5,935.6 at the close after briefly touching 5,991.1. Trading conditions were thin with a total of 778.5 million shares traded.

Newcomer Thomson Travel held steady at 193 1/2 p despite the Securities and Futures Authority launching an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding its recent flotation. A late trade saw 1.6 million MET Furniture shares go through the market at 79p as the price slipped 2p to 80p. Early selling by Morgan Stanley, the US securities house, was snapped up by one buyer believed to be Merrill Lynch.

British Energy slipped 2p to 558p in the wake of better than expected profits news earlier in the week. But Charterhouse Tilney, the broker, seems unimpressed.

Profit taking left Mays 153p lower at £34.7 as it made its debut in the top 100 companies. It was brought in to replace Energy Group, up 1 1/2 p to 84 1/2 p, after the bid from Texas Utilities went unconditional.

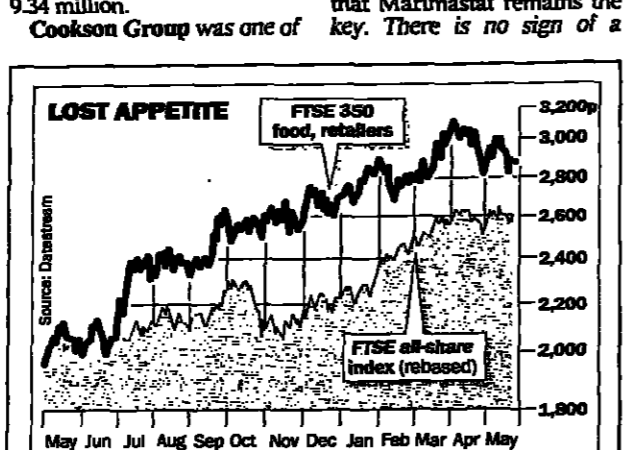
Shield Diagnostics touched 55p before rallying to close just 7 1/2 p down at 50p. Whispers in the City suggest the company is set to receive approval from America's Food and Drug Administration to market Activated Factor 12 in the US. The process can be used to detect early stages of heart defects through a simple blood test.

Prestrick Holdings fell 2p



ICM Computer Center Making...

Tony Conroy, finance director of Computacenter, and Mark Norris saw the company attract early demand



A POSITIVE trading update from Iceland Group at its annual meeting pleased shareholders and lifted the share price 10 1/2 p to 250 1/2 p. Trials of its home shopping service have helped to maintain sales momentum.

partner and product registration remains several years down the line.

A profits warning left Hamleys down 19 1/2 p to 274p. Shareholders were told at the annual meeting that the cost of developing its Toystock and House of Toys operations would result in lower first-half profits.

Computacenter, where Mark Norris is chief executive, attracted early demand after being priced at 670p. The personal computer supplier opened in conditional trading at 765p and touched a peak of 822 1/2 p before closing at 760p.

It was also the first day of trading for ICM Computer, another information technology company. Shares were placed at 180p and opened at 182 1/2 p before touching a high of 233 1/2 p. The price settled at 260 1/2 p, a premium of 80 1/2 p.

Videologic firmed 5p to 90p after confirming that its microchips will be used in Sega's next generation games console.

News of a bid approach lifted Paramount Foods 1 1/2 p to 129p. It is in talks with a number of institutions and executive managers.

MAJOR INDICES

Table of major indices including New York (midday), Tokyo, Hong Kong, Amsterdam, Sydney, Frankfurt, Singapore, Brussels, Paris, Zurich, London, and others.

Table of recent issues including AB Airlines, Aberdeen Civitac, Ambient Media, and others.

Table of major changes including Wellington, Avocet Mining, and others.

Table of money rates for various currencies and banks.

TEMPUS

Playing a strong Bass line

IT SEEMS astonishing that less than a year ago there was open criticism of the pace at which Sir Ian Prosser, chairman of Bass, was implementing his declared strategic objectives. Here was a group with a range of cyclical and more-or-less mature businesses that was in grave danger of being labelled dull.

The dealmaking that he has overseen in the past six months has been dramatic. He has raised £1.23 billion from selling traditional (mature) businesses such as Gala bingo, Coral bookmaking and rented pubs, while forking out £1.77 billion adding Inter-Continental hotels to his Holiday Inn hotel division. At the same time, £800 million was handed back to shareholders.

Bass has been transformed into a truly international business focused on three areas: hotels, leisure retailing and drinks. In all three, the emphasis is on leveraging high returns on capital through a focus on strong brands. Although bolt-on acquisitions are a possibility - Sir Ian hinted at hotel opportunities in Asia-Pacific - the emphasis for the time is likely to be organic growth supported by capital expenditure of about £800 million a year.

Lesser mortals might have taken their eye off the ball in terms of the existing business, but that is clearly not a chink in Sir Ian's armour. Underlying growth reached 10 per cent in the first half of the year and it is clear Bass is performing as well as - if not better than - most of the competition.

Merrill Lynch is forecasting full-year earnings per share of 58.2p, putting the shares - up 17p yesterday to £10.37 - on a multiple of less than 19 times prospective earnings. Worth tucking away for the long term.

Investors who chased Vesper Thornycroft shares higher on bid hopes were probably barking up the wrong tree. The company may eventually be absorbed into one or other of the European defence monoliths that will undoubtedly emerge in due course. But not in the near future.

PowerGen has wisely avoided, on grounds of cost, the National Power approach of buying US generating assets. However, merger partners are proving difficult to pin down. The core of the problem may be that US companies are just too expensive; any deal would involve PowerGen shareholders giving up significant value on day one in the hope of long-term gains as part of a bigger act of faith but then so does an investment in PowerGen.

Capital Radio DAVID MANSFIELD is to be congratulated on his decision to stand out against the euphoria for all things digital and avoid going into the abyss by bidding for a national digital franchise with no sign of revenues in sight.

Capital will, however, probably apply for a local digital licence later this year that will have a very tangible benefit indeed - it will get a

rollover of its London franchise. The company is also taking an equally hard-headed line on its courageous move into restaurants. Loss-making German restaurants are being got rid of for a nominal amount at the expense of a £2.5 million write-off. The idea of having two music-based chains of themed restaurants - Havana and Radio Cafe - looks like making sense at last of a poorly explained adventure.

But the main reason why Capital shares deserve a run, after Richard Branson and his Virgin Radio unaccountably fell into the arms of Chris Evans, is that the radio boom continues. Commercial radio's share of display advertising has now hit a record 5.1 per cent and is still rising. Capital's share of the growth in radio advertising revenue has tended to lag behind the industry. The company's only challenge now is to carve out a bigger slice of the new money.

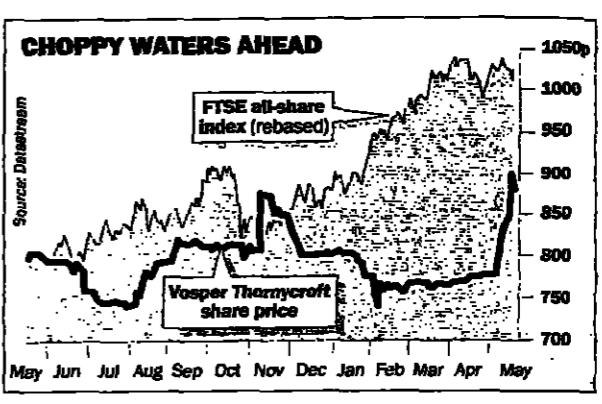


Table of commodity prices including Liffe, ICIS-Oil, GNI London Grain Futures, and others.

Table of life options including various insurance and investment products.

Table of London financial futures including Long Gil, German Govt Bond, and others.

Table of money rates and other sterling rates for various banks and currencies.

Table of European money deposits and gold/precious metals prices.

Table of sterling spot and forward rates for various banks.

Large advertisement for Microsoft on the right edge of the page, featuring the text 'Microsoft be broke' and 'Tails of'.

هكذا من الأصل

ECONOMIC VIEW ANATOLE KALETSKY



Microsoft's monopoly must be broken — even at a price

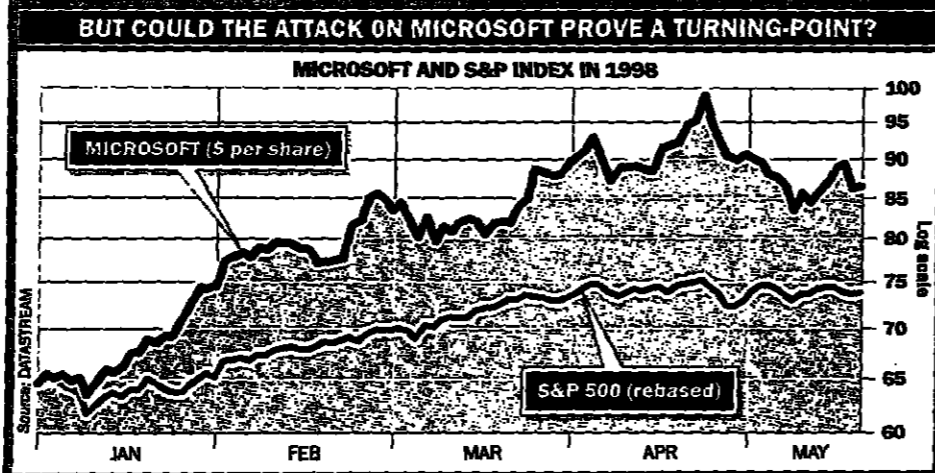
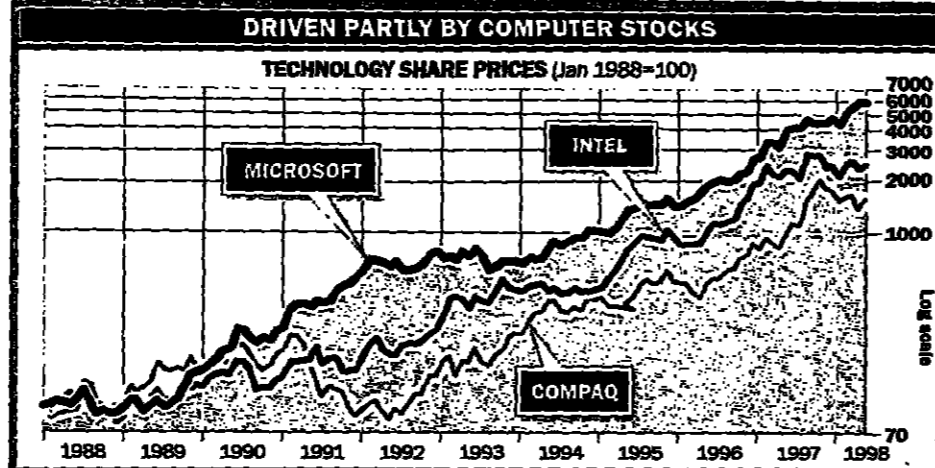
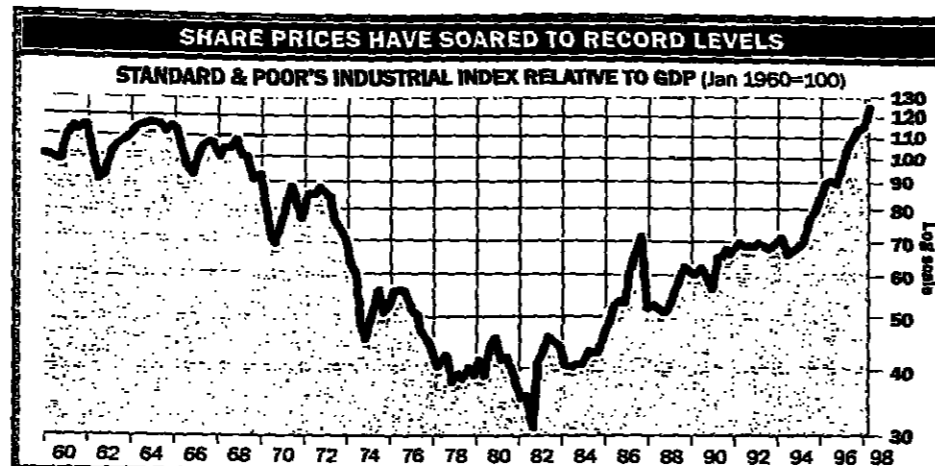
The benefits of allowing competition to flourish are worth the costs

The case brought against Microsoft by the US Government is perhaps the most important business event of the decade, so it scarcely seems necessary to apologise for devoting this space to it for a second day running. Three questions raised by the case deserve closer examination. Will it alter the future course of technological change and of computer development? Will it affect financial markets and, in particular, will it hurt the boom in stock markets around the world fuelled by the bullish sentiment on Wall Street? Could it even have a short-term macroeconomic impact on US and world employment, inflation and economic growth?

The answer to all these questions is "almost certainly yes". Much has already been said about the first issue. To me it seems obvious that Microsoft's products are unreliable, excessively complex and deliberately designed to become rapidly obsolete. This is an issue I have discussed several times in the past few years in the main part of the paper. The never-ending cycle of "upgrades" which makes previous software obsolete and forces users to buy new more powerful computers is a textbook example of the way monopolists typically try to abuse their monopoly power. The same is, of course, true of the more obvious abuses such as predatory pricing and exclusionary contracts which are at the heart of the Justice Department's suit against Microsoft.

Protected from these abuses, the world computer industry would grow even faster and prove far more successful in developing cheap and reliable new technologies that served genuine business and consumer needs. As the case against Microsoft evolves and these issues are exposed to debate, they may call for further comment. Suffice it to say at this point that many analysts seem to underestimate the strength of the economic arguments behind the Justice Department case and the grounds of opinion against Microsoft among general computer users and in the business community.

The broader questions about the economic and market impact have been much less discussed. Microsoft has claimed that the anti-trust attack would destroy jobs and undermine US competitiveness, but in truth the macroeconomic impact will depend primarily on what happens in financial markets, and the net effects of a strong and successful campaign against the company are likely to be benign. Loosening Microsoft's grip on software technology should, in time, reduce substantially the costs of computer technology by eliminating the



planned obsolescence at the heart of Microsoft's strategy. This is exactly what happened after the forced introduction of competition into other monopolised technologies, from mainframe computers and telephones to electricity supply and gas exploration. There is every reason to expect similar effects in software. For example, the simpler, cheaper and more reliable computers that could develop outside Microsoft's sphere of influence would probably accelerate the adoption of computers and Internet technologies in everyday life.

But such benefits would be felt, if at all, only in the long run. The more immediate economic effects have less to do with technology than with the stock market's perceptions of its spectacular financial power. The Microsoft prosecution could be the catalyst for a long-awaited correction on Wall Street. The fear of offending Microsoft's increasingly wealthy shareholders has, until recently, been one of the main political arguments against taking tough anti-trust action. In the past few months, however, the balance of political argument has shifted to the opposite side. If bringing the case against Microsoft helped precipitate a stock market correction, this would put

another feather in the Justice Department's cap. The Federal Reserve Board and the US Treasury are increasingly alarmed about the possibility that the Wall Street boom will turn into a full-scale economic bubble, embracing property and other assets, ultimately inflating wages and threatening a Japanese-style macroeconomic disaster when asset values crash. This bubble has not yet grown to dangerous proportions. In relation to national income, shares may be at record levels, but are still only 20 per cent above their typical level in the 1960s (see top chart).

For the moment, therefore, US officials are fairly confident that the economy could take a major correction in its stride. But if there is no correction by the summer, asset prices could rise to Japanese-style extremes and create a dangerously speculative situation. Alan Greenspan highlighted "irrational exuberance" on Wall Street as long ago as December 1996. But if the boom remains unstoppable after the summer, warnings may no longer be deemed enough. The Fed may be forced to use high interest rates to puncture sentiment on Wall Street. This is a decision that the Fed

badly wants to avoid, for fear of triggering a more serious and generalised economic slowdown. If a non-monetary factor such as Microsoft were to take some of the steam out of stock prices, the Fed would certainly see it as a blessing in disguise. By taking pressure off the Fed, the Microsoft case could thus be a boon for US business.

What, then, are the chances that Microsoft could trigger a correction on Wall Street? Its stratospheric ascent has been a big force behind the bull market of the past ten years. Its share price has multiplied 90-fold since 1988. It is now the third most valuable company on Wall Street, after General Electric and Coca-Cola. It is also among the most expensive. Its shares are worth an astonishing 56 times its earnings in the past year.

standards and planned obsolescence, make up a corporate aristocracy that seems to live in a different economy from the rest of American business. These companies' shares command stratospheric stock market ratings largely because they seem invulnerable to global competition, the business cycle or technological change. Were it not for the spectacular out-performance of these invulnerable glamour stocks (see middle chart), US shares would not seem nearly as overvalued as they do today. In fact, Wall Street would be less expensive than many European bourses, since many world-beating companies, such as General Motors, Travelers, Dupont, Kodak, IBM, AT&T and Hewlett-Packard, are selling for about 20 times earnings.

It seems quite plausible, therefore, that Wall Street's exuberance would suffer a serious blow if anything called into question the ability of Microsoft to continue increasing its earnings without interruption, year after year. The force of the blow could be amplified by two other factors. First, there are so many other astronomically valued companies whose stock market ratings depend directly on the Microsoft monopoly. For example, Dell Computer, an eight-year-old company with no proprietary technology, which merely assembles computer parts made by others, now sells on a price-earnings ratio of 68 and has a stock market value greater than General Motors. Second, the business and accounting methods pursued by most of these companies are critically dependent on ever-rising share prices.

Many of the companies nestling under the umbrella of Microsoft's monopoly, have been able to boost their profits and stock market ratings by substantially under-reporting salaries, which are their main business cost. They have done this by paying their employees in share options (which are not included in business expenses) instead of cash. According to a recent study by Smithers & Co, the London financial analyst, the top 100 American companies used this device to understate their true business costs, and inflate their profits, by about \$66 billion in 1996. Microsoft was the worst offender, understating its true business costs by \$13 billion. In fact, according to Smithers, had Microsoft accounted for the fullest possible manner for the costs of issuing its stock options, its 1996 profit of \$2.8 billion would have been replaced by a \$10 billion loss.

Such calculations rest on rather extreme assumptions about accounting transparency. But what they illustrate is the extent to which the financial structure of Microsoft, along with many other computer groups, is built like a pyramid company, on the assumption of ever-rising profits and share prices. And there is no sane basis for ever-rising profits than a monopoly market power — that monopoly power is ever seriously called into question, Wall Street may be in for some interesting — and unsettling — times.

Keeping the Bank and the Chancellor fully accountable



Giles Radice defends the work of the Treasury Committee after criticisms in The Times last week

Yesterday, the House of Commons Treasury Committee, under the glare of television lights, questioned members of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (including Eddie George, the Governor; Mervyn King, the Deputy Governor; Professor Charles Goodhart; and Professor Willem Buiter) on the May Inflation Report. Our hearing came at a time of great uncertainty about both the British and world economies, so we concentrated on bringing into the open the key influences on the Bank of England's decision makers and the debates between the minority who advocate a hike in interest rates and the majority who prefer a "wait and see" policy.

The committee is taking its role in relation to the Bank's monetary policy responsibilities very seriously indeed. Following a seminar of experts and authorities in the monetary policy field last autumn, we published a report *Accountability of the Bank of England* in which we set out the ways in which we intended to hold the Bank of England to account, including regular hearings following the publication of the Inflation Report. In addition to our specialist staff, we have appointed five high-powered advisers to help us to brief ourselves, as well as holding hearings with expert witnesses. We shall be producing our own report on the Bank's performance in the near future.

In order to enhance the independence of the Monetary Policy Committee, the Treasury Committee intends to hold "confirmation" hearings for all MPC members on June 16 and 17, after the Bank of England Act comes into force. We have already decided that questioning should be restricted to issues relating to the appointee's personal and professional competence. As chairman, I hope very much that this experiment, the first ever for a departmental select committee, will be a successful constitutional innovation.

So that we could plan ahead,

in early April we went to Mansfield College, Oxford, for an informal discussion of our future programme, which, we decided, should be a judicious mixture of regular inquiries (for example those on the Inflation Report and the Budget) and of one-off specific inquiries (such as our hearing on the Barnett Formula). We also determined to hold an inquiry into the Comprehensive Spending Review. During the summer, we are holding a major inquiry into the new financial services legislation, starting with the pensions misleading issue. In addition we have set up a sub-committee, chaired by Quentin Davies MP, to investigate the agencies and bodies that are the responsibility of the Treasury.

Given our intensive work schedule and the wide scope of our activities, the Treasury Committee can fairly claim to have got off to a good start. Two of our reports, one on EMU and the other on the Budget, have generated some controversy. On EMU it is no secret that there is a majority of the committee in favour but a substantial minority (all

Conservatives) against. So we decided not to debate the issue of principle or of timing but to concentrate instead on analysing the overall context of the British position, the Chancellor's five tests, preparations for EMU and the role of sterling while the UK remains outside. Our report was a useful one but unfortunately, before publication, some newspapers took one sentence out of context and wrongly implied that the Treasury Committee had concluded that the UK should not enter EMU for at least five years. We did no such thing. Indeed, a number of committee members, including the chairman, want to go in as soon as possible.

On the Budget, there was a split on broadly party lines. However, the report carefully rehearsed the arguments on whether or not the Chancellor had taken enough out of the economy, how his Budget affected savings and consumption and the policy dilemmas over the exchange rate. I predict the report will still read well in a few months' time.

It is important for commentators to understand the proper role of the Treasury Committee. It does not exist to try to usurp the role of Her Majesty's Opposition but to make the Chancellor and the Bank accountable for their decisions. The intense questioning on the exchange rate to which the Chancellor was subjected during the Budget hearing and the close analysis we made of the Chancellor's five tests for British entry to EMU are two examples of the committee fulfilling its accountability function. In addition, we aim, like our predecessor in the last Parliament, with its proposal to make the Bank operationally independent, to be a source of fresh ideas and thinking.

The Treasury Committee should be flattered that its work should be commented on in the media. It is a recognition that it is becoming an increasingly influential player in economic affairs. The author is the chairman of the Treasury Committee

BUSINESS LETTERS

More winners with lower rates

From Mr Malcolm Bruce, MP for Gordon (Liberal Democrat)

Sir, Michael Harman is concerned that lower interest rates deriving from British membership of economic and monetary union will disadvantage small savers (*The Times*, May 7).

Given the size of the average mortgage compared with building society savings accounts, winners will far outweigh losers. A 1 per cent reduction on, say £5,000, is £50 per year against the average mortgage benefit of £300 to £600.

At the same time, the extra business and investment opportunities that the dynamic single market of the single currency will create should provide higher returns on equity-based products "not" for those with larger sums held as savings. Yours faithfully, MALCOLM BRUCE, House of Commons, SW1A 0AA.

Treasury unlikely to influence ECB

From Mr M. C. Fitzpatrick

Sir, You report on comments by Wim Duisenberg, nominated president of the ECB, to the effect that ECB policy meeting minutes should remain unpublished for 16 years (May 9). You quote the Chancellor as indicating that such a policy might fail to make the ECB sufficiently accountable.

Gordon Brown may well have a point. But the ECB (like the US Federal Reserve Bank)

has been set up to establish interest rates in a geographic area which will not include the UK. In these circumstances, it seems doubtful that the ECB will pay much heed to what the UK Treasury says on this or any other matter affecting the operations of the ECB. Yours faithfully, M. C. FITZPATRICK, Chantry Vellacott, 10-12 Russell Square, London, WC1B 5LE.

POWERGEN plc SCRIP DIVIDEND PLAN

PowerGen shareholders can choose — if they wish — to have future dividends paid to them in PowerGen shares (known as "New Shares"), instead of by cheque. To do so, they have to complete and return a Scrip Dividend Mandate form.

Subject to approval at the Annual General Meeting on 13 July 1998, PowerGen's 1997/98 Final Dividend — 20.0p net per share — is to be paid on 31 July 1998 to shareholders registered in the Company's books at the close of business on 5 June 1998.

Shareholders who have already sent in a Scrip Dividend Mandate form will be paid the Final Dividend in shares, and need do nothing more. Shareholders who would like to be paid in shares should phone PowerGen's Registrars on 0117 976 3005. The Registrars will supply the Terms and Conditions of the Scrip Dividend Plan and a Scrip Dividend Mandate form. They can also deal with any queries, and cancellations.

These are the important dates:

- 1 June 1998 PowerGen Shares begin to trade "ex dividend"
- 5 June 1998 5.00pm Shareholders on the register qualify for the 1997/98 Final Dividend
- The price of a New Share is available by phoning 0117 976 3005
- 1 July 1998 The last date for Mandate forms or cancellations to be received by the Registrars
- 13 July 1998 Annual General Meeting
- by 30 July 1998 Dividend Cheques and Certificates for New Shares posted
- 31 July 1998 Final Dividend paid. New Shares can be traded

POWERGEN FOR NOW AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

Tails of the CBI

IF ANYONE sees the Pied Piper of Hamelin, can they point him in the direction of Adair Turner. It seems that, as part of the former McKinsey consultant's attempt to streamline the Confederation of British Industry, the bosses' organisation has been hit by a plague of rodents.

One of Adair's smart moves has been to relocate the CBI headquarters from its opulent penthouse offices at the top of the Centrepoint building in London's West End to a more modest billet on the second

floor of the blighted landmark. Unfortunately that floor comes with some unwanted extras, namely a colony of mice which the CBI is desperate to expunge.

"It should make a nice welcoming present for our new president," laughs Turner. And who might that be? None other than Sir Clive Thompson, chief executive of Rentokil Initial.

Flight fight

ANYONE who has seen the film *Planes, Trains and Automobiles* starring Steve Martin and the late John Candy will know what hell it can be travelling in the US over what our American cousins call a holiday weekend. The duo try virtually every type of transport in their attempt to make their way from their work in New York to their loved ones in the Midwest. Well, however bad that was, this weekend promises to be worse. As the US airlines are predicting that tomorrow a record two million people will be attempting to take flights in the US.



The Pied Piper would receive a welcome at the mice-plagued CBI

Just kidding

THOSE on-the-ball retail guys at Storehouse are convinced they un-



derstand their customers. According to its results presentation yesterday, the mothers who frequent Mothercare only start "feeling like a woman again" when their children are two years old. What on earth do they feel like in the meantime? A Martian? Condescending Keith Edelman reckons that the ladies love going shopping when hubby is at home watching World Cup football. Could he be just a little out of touch with the zeitgeist, and could that possibly explain the measly sales growth?

MY CV is already on its way to Folkestone in response to three mouthwatering job offers being made by Eurotunnel. The much troubled project is, "as a result of inter-

nal promotion", looking for a deputy treasurer, a corporate finance manager and, best of all, a finance modeller. Those with experience of companies making profits need not apply.

No Buttes

I TRUST Clive Smith, the Midlands entrepreneur who floated Butte Mining all those years ago, can purchase *The Times* in jail. Reading this column will no doubt help to fill the time during the three-year sentence for fraud which he started yesterday. He might also ruminate on the valiant submissions by his counsel in an attempt to foreshorten his incarceration. Smith, the Old Bailey heard, spent the 11 months of the Butte trial commuting daily to London from his home in Cheshire by Virgin trains — surely a punishment in itself. And his health gave cause for concern. On what grounds, asked Mr Justice Newman? Gout, Mi'bud, said the brief. The judge clearly had no sympathy with his predecessor — hanging Judge Jeffries, who was a sufferer from the disease — and packed him off to the cells anyway. Still, as excuses go, it beats pre-senile dementia.

Shorter spell

EVERYONE makes mistakes, it seems, even those ultra-efficient regulators at Imro. Word reaches me that the banning order handed down this

week to Glyn Owen, the former chief executive of Morgan Grenfell International Fund Management, contained two embarrassing errors. The version sent to him said that his Imro registration would be suspended until December 1999 — he is actually banned until December 2000 — and the enforcement committee "will accept less than three years' suspension — omitting it, but for the fact that one of Imro's reasons for suspending Owen is because the former senior Morgan Grenfell honcho "did not act with due skill, care and diligence".

JASON NISSÉ



"It keeps crashing — it can't cope with the demand"

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Main table containing unit trust prices, organized by fund name, share price, and other financial metrics. Includes sub-sections for various fund categories like Equity, Bond, and Money Market.

Birmingham welcomes the largest convention of its kind in the world. (Needless to say, it's going to be a roaring success.) Lions Clubs International Convention June 29th - July 3rd

the nec Birmingham logo

Vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, featuring the text 'THE TIMES' and 'CONSTRUCTION'.

كنا من الأصل

Best levels fail to hold

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Table with columns: High, Low, Company, Price, % Change, P/E Ratio

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Table of stock prices for Alcoholic Beverages

BANKS

Table of stock prices for Banks

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Table of stock prices for Breweries, Pubs & Rest

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

Table of stock prices for Diversified Industrials

BUILDING MATERIALS

Table of stock prices for Building Materials

ELECTRICITY

Table of stock prices for Electricity

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

Table of stock prices for Electronic & Elect

CHEMICALS

Table of stock prices for Chemicals

ENGINEERING

Table of stock prices for Engineering

CONSTRUCTION

Table of stock prices for Construction

DISTRIBUTORS

Table of stock prices for Distributors

INSURANCE

Table of stock prices for Insurance

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table of stock prices for Investment Trusts

ENGINEERING VEHICLES

Table of stock prices for Engineering Vehicles

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Table of stock prices for Food Manufacturers

HEALTHCARE

Table of stock prices for Healthcare

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

Table of stock prices for Household GDS & Text

LEISURE & HOTELS

Table of stock prices for Leisure & Hotels

BRITISH FUNDS

Table of stock prices for British Funds

SHORTS (under 5 years)

Table of stock prices for Short-Term Bonds

LONGS (over 15 years)

Table of stock prices for Long-Term Bonds

UNDATED

Table of stock prices for Undated Bonds

INDEX-LINKED (as projected inflation of)

Table of stock prices for Index-Linked Bonds

MEDIA

Table of stock prices for Media

PHARMACEUTICALS

Table of stock prices for Pharmaceuticals

PRINTING & PAPER

Table of stock prices for Printing & Paper

PROPERTY

Table of stock prices for Property

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Table of stock prices for Telecommunications

TRANSPORT

Table of stock prices for Transport

WATER

Table of stock prices for Water

RETAILERS FOOD

Table of stock prices for Retailers Food

RETAILERS GENERAL

Table of stock prices for Retailers General

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

Table of stock prices for Alternative Investment Market

RETAILERS GENERAL

Table of stock prices for Retailers General

OTHER FINANCIAL

Table of stock prices for Other Financial

PHARMACEUTICALS

Table of stock prices for Pharmaceuticals

PRINTING & PAPER

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Table of stock prices for Alternative Investment Market

RETAILERS GENERAL

Table of stock prices for Retailers General

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Source: FT Information. 1 Ex-dividend, 2 Ex-rights, A Ex-rights, B Ex-rights, C Ex-rights, D Ex-rights, E Ex-rights, F Ex-rights, G Ex-rights, H Ex-rights, I Ex-rights, J Ex-rights, K Ex-rights, L Ex-rights, M Ex-rights, N Ex-rights, O Ex-rights, P Ex-rights, Q Ex-rights, R Ex-rights, S Ex-rights, T Ex-rights, U Ex-rights, V Ex-rights, W Ex-rights, X Ex-rights, Y Ex-rights, Z Ex-rights.

هكذا من الأصل

Luvvies chafe under rule by tycoon

The words "mass resignation at the Arts Council" have a fine ring, do they not? On the old newsroom single-meter they may not quite compete with Miss Emma Noble's frontpiece (what can't), but they rank well above reports of G8 summits or uprisings in Indonesia.

In England the Arts Council is always "in turmoil". Like trendy vicars, senile judges, blind referees and drunken journalists, the phrase is woven into the gait of the nation. Our sceptical race may be deeply wary of "the arts". But an Arts Council in turmoil — that's a different matter. It counts as Light Entertainment. The Covent Garden fiasco? The Mary Allen affair? Lord Palumbo? The names alone induce peals of laughter, like catch-phrases in a long-running sitcom. To misquote Richard Nixon: we will miss the Arts Council when it's gone. We'll have to find something else to kick around.

But I get ahead of myself. Abolition of the Arts Council is, oh, months away yet. At present we are in Reform and Prune mode. The Government has appointed

Gerry Robinson — "upstart caterer", in John Cleese's immortal phrase, but currently boss of Granada — not only to chair the Arts Council but apparently to shake it up and clear it out.

When I asserted last December that the appointment would lead to tears, quite a few luvvies told me that I had got nice Mr Robinson all wrong: that he was Irish charm personified, his clear blue eyes twinkling at the mere whisper of high culture. Well, on Wednesday some 15 prime luvvies resigned from the Arts Council's drama advisory panel in protest against that nice Mr Robinson's first action — which was, in effect, to sever them completely from the decision-making process.

They are a weighty bunch, too: veteran producer Thelma Holt, Blair-babe theatre director Jude Kelly, trendy hotshot Sam Mendes, incorrigible playwright Alan Ayckbourn ... in other



RICHARD MORRISON

big cultural row in Britain today: the battle between the luvvies and the suits. In short, should the arts be run by arts practitioners, or by faceless bureaucrats controlled by moonlighting tycoons such as Robinson or, at Covent Garden, EMI's Colin Soutidge?

The battle swings one way then the other. When the lottery was introduced, no bid could be countenanced without the dubious benefit of a "feasibility study" prepared by some ludicrously expensive firm of accountants or consultants. The South Bank Centre and English National Opera alone got through nearly £2 million simply commissioning these daft studies for bids that were doomed to fail.

Nothing moved in the arts, it seemed, unless sanctioned by some talking clipboard from Price Waterhouse. TV execs and advertising-agency smoothies were even put in charge of our opera houses, with consequences that are now the stuff of ribald anecdote throughout musical Europe.

And when they failed, risibly, Gerald Kaufman famously called for a "philistine" to run Covent Garden instead. Good grief, as opposed to what? The trend culminated in Robinson's appointment

of whom, naturally, know more about "the real world".

The arts people have a point. But that's the country we live in now. Labour is fixated on "cultural industries" that make big bucks. Ideally this Government would like all the arts to resemble rock music: relentlessly lowbrow, vastly profitable, nakedly populist.

Unfortunately, some of the greatest achievements in art have an annoying tendency to be intellectually tough and almost unmarketable, at least until years after their creators have passed to paupers' graves. Management consultants somehow never manage to fit this awkward fact on to their flow charts. That's why great art has always needed far-sighted, brave, deep-pocketed patrons.

Britain is lucky enough to have a number of these today. But the most effective has been the taxpayer, via the Arts Council. That's all changing now. Public arts subsidy, at least on the scale of the past 50 years, is dead. Long live ... what? Something, I hope. Perhaps Gerry Robinson has a flow chart that can tell us.



Doctoring the truth: Beatie Edney, Dominic Mafham and Niamh Cusack in Peter Moffat's award-winning new play

Practising to deceive

The curious title of Peter Moffat's new play has something to do with clothing the hands lightly to avoid breaking butterflies, but there are touches of Nabokov's devious approach to his stories in Moffat's circling dialogue and the elegantly knowing riffs on subjects that aren't usually seen as sharing space inside the same character. His barrister hero Nick will segue from Camus' skills as a goal-keeper to the placing of *Ronettes* and *Ramones*, sincerity-wise.

The immediate threat to

THEATRE

Nick's married life is the waif he is defending on a charge of possessing heroin. He has insanely fallen in love with her. It is unprofessional, it is hazardous, it is indefensible, but the little god's arrow has gone right through his heart.

Nick's story moves from soliloquies before his bathroom mirror by way of confidences in chambers to the

pastoral beauties of a village below the South Downs, but it plays in fugue with the stories of his wife and colleagues. Only his wife Fran, a surgeon played by Niamh Cusack, lives a life that is midway admirable, and appears to long for directness where Nick's legal colleagues are paid for deceit. "There just isn't time for the whole truth," Nick advises Ruth Gemmell's confession-bent waif. Perhaps there is not time for truth at all.

Witnessing these amazingly well-realised characters step elegantly through their emo-

tional hoops makes for a stimulating evening, and the moves, tones and gestures show a precision that suggests rigorous rehearsal — Ian Brown directs — though there are times in the war of witty evasions when, like Fran, I wanted them just to stop covering their wounds for a moment and reveal a bleeding heart.

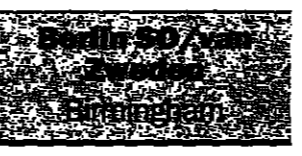
But this is not the purpose Moffat has in mind for his legal folk, each of whom practises to deceive. Beatie Edney's armour is verbal precision, a firm voice and a fund of culinary anecdotes; Dominic Mafham, excellent as the moral trimmer Joe, tells tales of professional guilt; David Cardy, their sexually profligate senior clerk, murmurs truisms of paternal love. And as the focus for the latest round of pretences, the oppressor and victim, Greg Wise gives Nick an oily complacency and resolution that briefly dries out to allow us a glimpse of perhaps nothing inside at all but facts about ball games and pop charts. Sometimes the language is too good to be true. Would the waif be up to saying: "The end of the day was elsewhere"? But this is a small tremor in a work that deservedly won last year's Pearson Television New Writers Award for Best Play.

JEREMY KINGSTON

CONCERTS: Berlin's other orchestra; plus authentically enjoyable pianism

Visitors with the wind up

Though not the most glamorous or venerable or generously endowed of the city's orchestras, the Berlin Symphony is clearly a very useful ensemble. There was little it couldn't do for Jaap van Sweden in Schubert's *Unfinished* and Brahms's Second Symphony; indeed, in responding so positively to his emphatic way with those familiar scores, it stimulated much applause from an enthusiastic Symphony Hall.



But so did Derek Han for his heavily overemphatic account of the Saint-Saëns Piano Concerto in G minor.

Taking a grip on it as firm as he would more appropriately apply to an epic by Busoni, or Brahms at the very least, he put the work and the piano under considerable pressure. The performance was ruthlessly efficient and, where brilliance was required, it positively glittered, but there was little evidence of style, wit and affection. The quiet passages — and there were some — were as inimical in their iciness as the loud ones were in their violence.

One of the things the Berlin Symphony could not do for its tour conductor, at least on this occasion, was to retain a consistently acceptable woodwind sound. For the most part refined and often appealing in its colouring and phrasing, the woodwind section was curiously but regularly subject to a failure in control from one or another of the instruments. An ear alerted to the likelihood of even a small accident in this area is an ear distractingly anxious for its comfort rather than one dedicated to making direct contact with the texture of the music.

Jaap van Sweden's interpretations of Schubert and Brahms invited just that kind of contact. The climaxes in both works were presented in unsparring close-up and it is to the credit of the strings that they were not swamped by the wind on these occasions. The 65-strong Berlin Symphony has worked out its own satisfactory kind of balance and its own way of making its structural and expressive points.

GERALD LARNER

A grand old time in Chopin's world

What would Chopin have made of a modern concert grand? James Sansom, the Chopin scholar, posed this question in his programme note for the performance of Chopin's First Piano Concerto by Emanuel Ax and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment under Charles Mackerras at the QEH on Tuesday.

He might, argues Sansom, have conceded some gains in the modern grand, but there would be qualities he would have missed, including the delicacy of the bass and the difference of tone in each register. I would go further and suggest that if Chopin had indeed been composing for today's instruments, he would not have written in the way he did: hearing Ax play on an Erard grand of 1851 was a revelation.

Almost more extraordinary than Ax's absolute technical ease was how he seemed totally at home on this instrument, exploiting those contrasts in tonal register to capture in turns the brilliant clarity of the sometimes explosive passagework in the open-



and it was not until the final Furiant that the string sound began to find some focus and real energy was generated.

The wind-playing, however, was strikingly lovely throughout, especially in the flute solo (Lisa Bezostitsk) of the *Romance*.

The overall sound had warmed up well for Brahms's *Serenade No 1 in D* after the interval, the violas in particular relishing their moment of glory. Originally conceived as a work for chamber orchestra, the *Serenade* in its full orchestral version retains a striking clarity of texture and there are some truly inspired sections, notably the *Menuetto*, but it is also somewhat prolix in others. Brahms appears to have been pulled in two directions at once, with the natural ease of the melodic inspiration being stretched to symphonic proportions, the provisional title for the work, "Symphony-Serenade", reflecting this sense of creative vacillation. Mackerras kept it all moving along and there was much to enjoy.

For all its lively rhythms, the final Rondo, based on a Polish dance known as the *krakowiak*, is perhaps the least successful movement but it linked up with the characteristic dances of Dvořák's *Czech Suite*, Op 39. It proved a tough opener to the concert.

TESS KNIGHTON

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POP ALBUMS Has Tricky peaked?

ARTS

Don't come to us with your troubles

TRICKY

Angels With Dirty Faces (Island CID 8071 £15.99) FOR the dwindling band of believers who are still prepared to give Tricky the benefit of the doubt, there is some comfort to be gained from his third album, Angels With Dirty Faces. With its slight shift in emphasis away from electronic effects towards "real" instrumentation, it is a marginally more accessible collection than his last offering, the virtually unlistenable Pre-Millennium Tension.

Also on the credit side are the continuing efforts of singer Martina Topley-Bird on half-a-dozen numbers, and a guest contribution from P.J. Harvey, whose witchy vocal lends a patina of harmonic respectability to the standout track, Broken Homes. Otherwise, though, this album is pure hokum: a collage of repetitive, dislocated riffs, awkwardly syncopated rhythms and whispered mantra-like chants that betray the "dark prince of trip hop" as an artist whose limited powers of invention are becoming increasingly added by what appears to be paranoia.

"Excuse me, what you looking at?" he asks again and again in Repeat Slings, an imaginary dialogue between the musing star and a row of detractors demanding to know why he does what he does (answer: "This is all I know"). "Is this making music or money? I can't make my mind up," Tricky muses in 6 Minutes, a typically self-absorbed

NEW POP ALBUMS

drone exploring the uncomfortable relationship between his art and his business. But frankly, if this is the best he can do, a fear of "selling out" is likely to prove the least of his worries.

LO-FIDELITY ALLSTARS How to Operate With a Blown Mind (Skint BRASSICS £14.49) WORKING in the vanguard of the big beat tendency associated with the Brighton-based Skint label, among others, Lo-Fidelity Allstars are part of a British dance/rock looning tradition that stretches from Black Grape back to 1980s pioneers Pop Will Eat Itself. In common with those acts, the Allstars combine a rock guitar mentality with DJ and rap techniques, overcoming an ingrained aversion to tunes per se by imbuing their debut album, How to Operate With a Blown Mind, with an infectious bounce (as opposed to singalong) appeal.

From the depth-charge breakbeats of their best-known single, Kool Roc Bass, to the slow, trip hop feel of Will I Get Out of Jail, the Allstars' heavily rhythmic sound is spiced up by the vocales of a character calling himself the Wrecked Train, who seems to have been influenced by the sort of ranting you sometimes hear from those sandwich-board men who hang about on Hyde Park Corner.

Although very much the flavour of the moment, the Allstars are not as smart or as funny as Propellerheads, and while this is a strong opening gambit it sounds at times as if a piece of the jigsaw is still missing.

THE JAMES TAYLOR QUARTET Whole Lotta Live 1998 (JTI/3MV/Sony JTI002 £14.49) ELEVEN years ago, when the James Taylor Quartet released their debut mini-album, Mission Impossible, the idea of arranging themes such as those to Goldfinger, Blow Up and Alfie for guitar, bass, drums and Hammond organ was so out of step with the mood of the moment as to be little short of laughable.

Now the same formula (plus horn section and percussion on some numbers) is the very acme of cool, and the JTQ have quietly become a legend on the live club circuit, their unique celebration of the forgotten joys of pre-rock'n'roll musicianship mirroring modern dancefloor trends such as big beat and loungecore.

Whole Lotta Live 1998 captures the quartet in full flight at a performance in Manchester (actually recorded last year), powering their way through faithful versions of Green Onions, the Starsky & Hutch theme, Whole Lotta Love (recently returned as the theme to Top of the Pops), the theme to 2001 (Richard Strauss's Also Sprach Zarathustra) and, still on the bill after all these years, Blow Up.

A selection of Taylor's own compositions in a similar vein, including the glorious Haitian Breakdown, lends fresh impetus to an extraordinarily vibrant package.

CLEOPATRA Comin' Atchal (WEA 3984-23356 £15.49) LOOSELY modelled on the Jacksons and initially talked up as a more soulful successor to the Spice Girls, the three teenaged Cleopatra sisters from Manchester have charm, confidence and a well-drilled song and dance routine going for them.

But Comin' Atchal, their debut album, lacks any evidence of original thought, and while individual songs such as the chirpy Touch of Love and the relaxed Life Ain't Easy drift by pleasantly enough, the cumulative effect is rather like watching a row of tins dropping neatly off a production line.

A plodding version of the old Jackson Five hit, I Want You Back, is a reminder that, whatever their beginnings, the Spice Girls never sounded manufactured.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Standards out of the ordinary

JAZZ ALBUMS

that "the hottest solos and the tightest rhythm sections go hand in hand with music people dance to", and he's certainly proved this to be so with his label's Cuban and Bulgarian acts. Jazz Jamaica, a London-based nonet led by bassist Gary Crosby, vindicate this point of view just as powerfully on this irresistibly stinky, funkily accessible album, which contains an uplifting selection of ska standards (Toots and the Maytals' Monkey Man), out-and-out jazz themes (Herbie Hancock's

A switched-off delight

BLUES ALBUMS

composed tunes such as Grandma's Tea House, traditional themes such as Po' Boy and quirky revivals like Harlem Bound, first recorded in Paris in 1933 by expatriate jazzman Freddy Johnson. Ted Hawkins died on New Year's Day, 1995 after a career which had seen him move from playing for dimes on Venice Beach, California to gaining a recording contract with a major company. Suffer No More: The Ted Hawkins Story (Rhino R2 72956) takes an overview of his career and includes his first commercial recordings from the mid-Sixties as well as his more familiar material from the Eighties and Nineties. It's not all strictly blues, but the echoes of his biggest influence, Sam Cooke, are never far away.

We're now seeing reissues of reissues but when they're as good as Rural Blues Vols 1 & 2 (BGO CD384) you can't complain. Originally released as two vinyl albums in the late Sixties they contain some of the finest postwar rural blues ever put down on shellac. Now there's a chance to hear again Lightnin' Hopkins' first records, gems from Lil' Son Jackson and Slim Harpo and the uproarious zydeco classic Paper In My Shoe by Boozoo Chavis, who is reputed not to have missed a note as he fell off his chair during the recording session.

There's a similar Tex-Mex feel to a CD by mystery group Mando & The Chili Peppers. Led by Armando Almandarez, they recorded a handful of bluesy rock 'n' roll numbers in the Fifties. Now reissued as On The Road With Rock'n' Roll (Ace CDCHD683) they show a band willing to cater for everyone with ballads such as Harbour Lights, the doo-wop-styled Cherry Pie, a Fat Domino-like South of The Border and the irresistible I Love to Eat Chili in Chile.

JOHN CLARKE

But Comin' Atchal, their debut album, lacks any evidence of original thought, and while individual songs such as the chirpy Touch of Love and the relaxed Life Ain't Easy drift by pleasantly enough, the cumulative effect is rather like watching a row of tins dropping neatly off a production line.

A plodding version of the old Jackson Five hit, I Want You Back, is a reminder that, whatever their beginnings, the Spice Girls never sounded manufactured.

DAVID SINCLAIR



"We can't go on together with suspicious minds": but is it too late for the troubled Tricky to heed Elvis's wise words?

KEITH JARRETT/ GARY PEACOCK/ JACK DEJOHNETTE Tokyo 96 (ECM 1666 539 955-2) FROM the intense lyricism of Harry Warren's Summer Night, through an almost skittish Autumn Leaves, to a Latin-tinged romp through I'll Remember April — all the Standards Trio's virtuosity and charm are on display in this 70-minute selection from a concert in front of one of jazz's most knowledgeable and supportive audiences.

The ambient delicacy of Keith Jarrett's piano playing on ballads is, as ever, intelligently balanced against the ecstatic fluency of his up-tempo work, and with drummer Jack DeJohnette, his customary restlessly propulsive self and bassist Gary Peacock providing sinuous, melodic support, this is another elegant, state-of-the-art trio recording by one of jazz's top live acts.

JAZZ JAMAICA Double Barrel (Hannibal HNCD 1421) JOE BOYD, the boss of Hannibal Records, is convinced

Butterfly) and popular classics (Marvin Gaye's I Heard It Through the Grapevine), all subjected to the jazz-ska fusion treatment "skazz". The swing and forward momentum of jazz are skillfully set against the vertical bounce of Caribbean rhythms, and the resultant rhythmic tension — not to mention the band's considerable soloing skills, epitomised by the bubbling guitar playing of Alan Weekes — make this not only an infectious enjoyable, but also a highly intriguing album.

CHRIS PARKER

Super Furry Animals are Welsh, funny and gifted. How can you resist?

Manic streetwise preachers

There are certain things that mark a band out as being absolutely worthy of love. When they have a big pink tank top, for instance. When it is revealed that two key members met for the first time on the roof of a train — "a narrow-gauge one... on a hot day". That will generally bode well. When there's a frontman who looks like an acid sorcerer and offers his services to the Government as a millennium adviser. These are signs to the good.

And when the band is started as a techno project, but all the members gradually throw ELO, Bowie, Funkadelic, XTC, Hawkwind, Happy Mondays and any other interestingly sleeved album into the pot until they invent an entirely new music, you know your heart will be safe with the Super Furry Animals. The fact that they sing about Johan Cruyff being the meaning of life, and having a big inflatable lightbulb suspended over their heads onstage which lights up, cartoon-like, whenever they have "a good idea", is merely the hundreds and thousands on the big Cake Of Life. In a dreary world, where every other pop star is a man with greasy heroin hair shouting about things being "Real", and most albums are like big grey sauté puddings with mouse poo instead of currants, the Super Furry Animals are Pan. Saint Nick. Old Nick and Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory rolled into one.

From North and South Wales, and numbering five — Bunf, Gruff, Guto, Dafydd and Cian — SFA formed in 1993 and toured the Basque provinces, Poland, the Czech Republic, Greece and Switzerland before playing England. They avoid the obvious at all junctures. Perched on a back-stage sofa in Nottingham, looking a little bleary-eyed but still warm, they give an interview more measured, unexpected and poetic than most of their contemporaries — and in their second language.

When asked what their best day's been in the last year — a question to which most bands' response is a gig in Germany, meeting Paul Weller or being given too much change in Merzies — Gruff says: "The Colombia fiesta, a celebration of killing the local landlords. There was drinking, and shooting competitions. It was superb. There were no other Europeans around: locals kept



CAITLIN MORAN

coming up to us and going: "This is the most dangerous country in the world, you're mad!" "It's a Marxist-controlled area," Bunf interjects, "and when we got there there was a fax at the hotel from the local guerrillas, just seeing how we were. I think they liked us. They were very friendly. They showed us around. We were looked after, and sheltered from the darkest sights."

"We want to bring some of that fiesta to our gig tonight."

Gruff says, "Four charcoal into the photographers' pit and roast a goat. There should be feasts at gigs. All the senses should be courted." That night's gig — quadruphonically sound and the kind of lightshow that makes you levitate — prompts the most febrile crowd reaction I've seen since Radiohead toured The Bends. Kids have made up special chants — "They're super/They're furry/They're an-i-mals" — and a perpetual scum of crowd-surfers rises to the surface of the boiling audiences.

It looks as if Super Furry Animals will be the next and last of the Terminal Indie Underachievers to go Big Top Ten, taking their place alongside Radiohead, the Verve and Catatonia. If they don't do it this year — new single, cracking festival slots, fashionably Welsh — then the new album next year should pretty much guarantee it. SFA songs have the happy populist-yet-perversely knock of sounding like Radio 2 beamed from Andromeda. Demons is Space Oddity after it's passed through Comet Halley-Bopp's tail: Play It Cool is what happens if a sunspot flares when you're transmitting Pinball Wizard and Happy Mondays' Step On from the other side of the galaxy. Smoke it, the first track on the current EP, Ice Hockey Hair, sounds like the Beastie Boys orbiting the Earth in the Mir space station, driven mad with the isolation and attempting to be a P-funk band using hand-puppets.

"That's kind of what it's like," Gruff points out, "when you live in a fairly isolated place, and your radio reception's coming through a mountain."

Ice Hockey Hair is recorded on Monday by Creation Records. Super Furry Animals play the Glastonbury Festival, Shepton Mallet, on June 27

Advertisement for John Martyn live with The Verve on Sunday 24th May. Includes a photo of John Martyn and text: "Everything from Elmore James' The Sky Is Crying to Portishead's Glory Box... explored and expanded by one of our foremost bands." Available now the album "The Church With One Bell".

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POP CONCERTS
Robbie hits the road

ARTS

TOMORROW
Glyndebourne reviewed

Take That's black sheep back for good

Thank you and good night. The knackered Robbie Williams said, perhaps rather oddly considering he had completed only two numbers. But then, given the colossal scale of his new show's opening sequence and the effort expended by Williams in putting it across, you could see his point. Starting with a version of *Let Me Entertain You* of such bombastic extravagance that it could have been arranged and choreographed for a Ken Russell movie, Williams and his five-piece band exploded into action, the genial star lolloping across the stage, gurning furiously as he expounded the simple philosophy from which this epic show proceeded: we were there to be entertained and Williams was there to do the job.

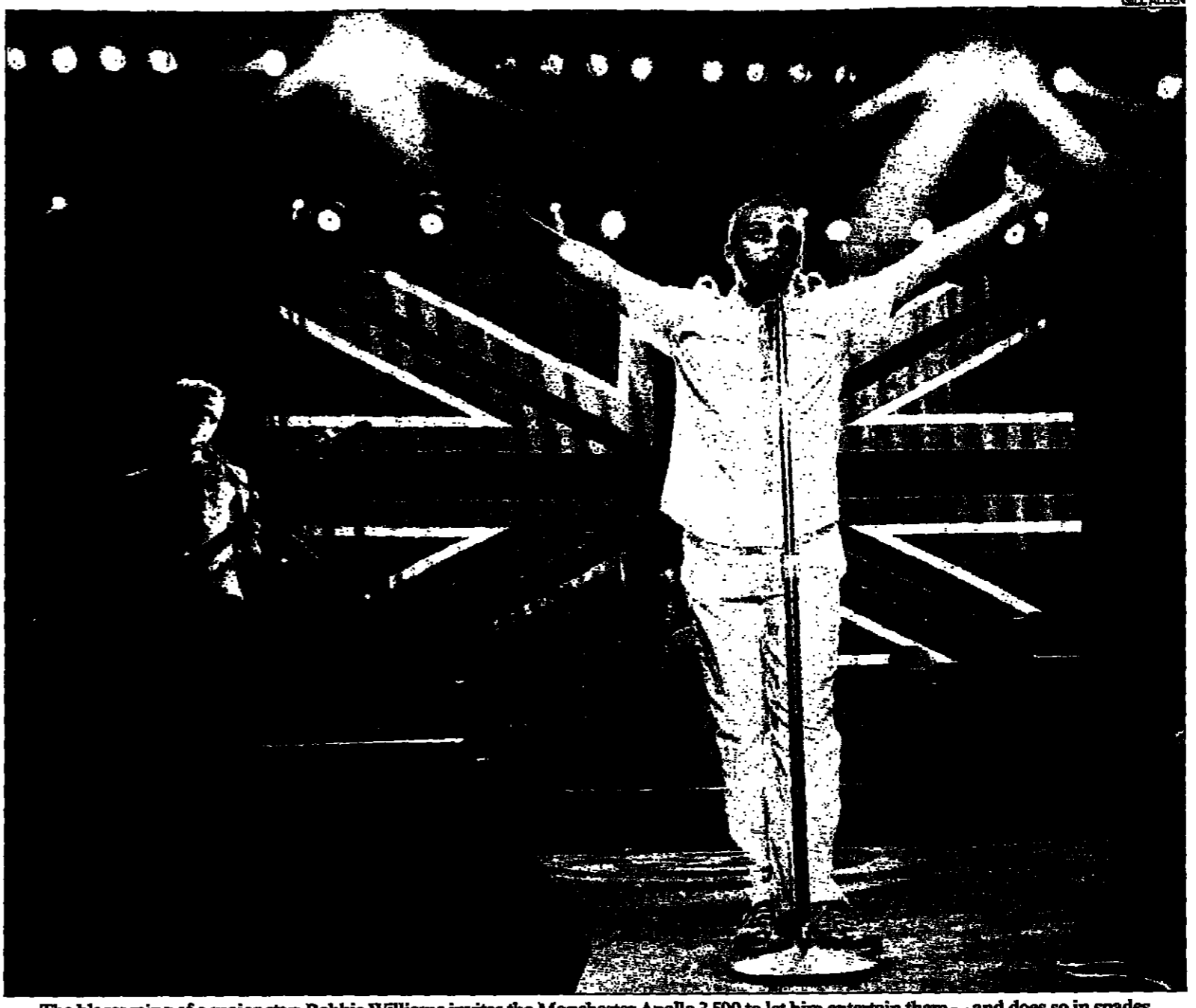
LIVE GIGS
Robbie Williams
Manchester Apollo

million copies in Britain and, in his home city of Manchester, the 24-year-old underdog made good was greeted as an all-conquering local hero by a 3,500-strong crowd. Indeed, so intense was the level of adulation, and so skilful Williams's talent for milking every last drop of it, that there were times when an air of triumphalism threatened to engulf the show. Fortunately, Williams's droll sense of humour and the adroit pacing of the show was sufficient to diffuse the sensation of overkill, and it wasn't long before a stretch of gentler songs including *Baby Girl*, *Window* and *One of God's Better People* revealed a more sensitive side to his repertoire.

autobiographical songs such as *Teenage Millionaire*, *Life Thru a Lens* and *Old Before I Die* with guileless ease and unforced gusto. Making no effort to conceal his debt to the Beatles, Williams ended *Lazy Days* with a mass singalong of *Hey Jude* and still the fervour continued to mount as he opened a sequence of encores with *Angels*, the swaying, arms-aloft anthem which more than any other song cemented the success of his album. As on several occasions during the gig, the ridiculous ease with which Williams combined his populist touch and natural theatrical flair to wrap the crowd around his little finger reminded me of the late Freddie Mercury.

A version of Take That's signature song, *Back for Good*, rearranged as a ludicrous punk thrash seemed a little graceless, and a reprise of *Let Me Entertain You* was perhaps one final onslaught too many, but there was no doubting the galvanising effect on the fans. This was a show which marked the blossoming of a major star.

DAVID SINCLAIR



The blossoming of a major star: Robbie Williams invites the Manchester Apollo 3,500 to let him entertain them — and does so in spades

DIY music comes of age

OVER the past 14 years, Flaming Lips have released a series of experimental albums, with strange titles and even stranger lyrics. Yet these records look positively conventional when set alongside their latest release, *Zaireeka*, which consists of four CDs designed to be played on four separate stereo systems... all at the same time.

The idea behind *Zaireeka* dates back to autumn 1996 when Lips frontman Wayne Coyne got 30 people simultaneously to play a different tape of specially programmed music over their car stereos in the parking lot of an Oklahoma City shopping mall. Suitably impressed by the resultant noise and the reaction to it, the band took the show to other American cities, replacing the car stereos with boom boxes.

volume controls up or down — although Coyne, who was dressed in a yellow rain jacket and beige shorts, did not exactly look like a contender for Last Night at the Proms. The show became increasingly experimental as the set progressed, with the multi-layered *Sunrise* sounding like something you would expect from Philip Glass rather than from a rock band. "I know this is weird — I don't really know what you expected," said Coyne, who had thoughtfully timed the length of the show to coincide with the capacity of the average human bladder.

ANN SCANLON

Cornflake girl to rock babe

THE appeal of Tori Amos was for so long based upon the vulnerability of a young woman alone with her piano that it comes as something of a shock to find her rocking out with a full band. At the Royal Court, the first night of her new British tour saw Amos both plugged in and at full volume. It is a shift in musical direction already signalled by her new album *From the Choirgirl Hotel*, perhaps her most mature collection of songs to date. Her grand piano still took centre stage, but Amos clearly derived a confidence and strength from the company of Matt Chamberlain on drums and Steve Caton on guitar, both of whom played on the new album, and Jon Evans on bass.

stances which inspired many of the songs, this show was a life-affirming event which celebrated both her earthy and more spiritual sides. Legs astride the piano stool with her head thrown back and the light making a halo of her fiery red hair, Amos was a dramatically striking figure playing the rock babe to the hilt. The band generated a dynamic which allowed her to feed off Chamberlain's drums and which imbued her piano playing with a strong rhythmic quality. She slowed things down briefly on *Cornflake*, a rare dip into her back catalogue, before unleashing the percussive storm of *Northern Lad* and the drama of *Raspberry Swirl*, perhaps the best song on the new album.

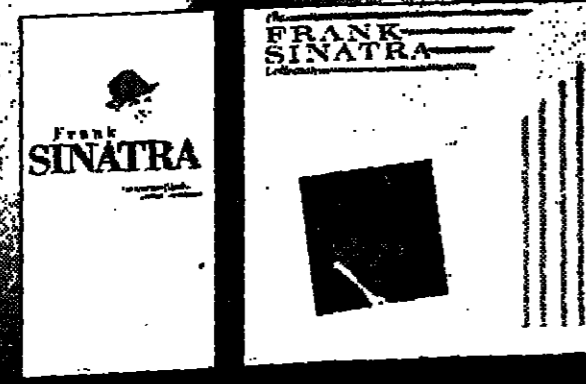
Yet nothing in the show was better received than two further forays into her past, *China* and *Jezebel*, played solo at the piano with an extraordinary intensity. If the band setting had emphasised the power of her voice it had also at times made it difficult to hear the words and the clarity of the solo spot was welcome. With the band back in tow Amos built the show to a cathartic finale with two more new songs, *Spark* and *Cruel*

before an explosive rendition of *Waitress*. Amos may have lost something in abandoning her girl alone at the piano routine but playing with a band has at the same time added structure and depth, emphasising not only her strong voice but also the complexity of her piano playing. This was a grown-up Tori Amos with not a trace of the famous kookiness, a mature rock performer at the height of her powers.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

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Secrets behind our body image

The series *The Human Body* shows us as never before, says Nigel Hawkes

The body is a private place, with mysteries concealed beneath the skin. Doctors know something of what goes on there, though not quite as much as they pretend. For the rest of us, it remains in sight, but out of mind; only when something goes wrong are we reminded painfully of its complexity.

For the next six weeks, the BBC is using the power of modern medical imaging, wedded to the art of TV graphics, to explore the body as it has never been seen before.

The series, *The Human Body*, which began on Wednesday, is the first essay in the field since Jonathan Miller's *The Body in Question*. It has taken two years to make and contains some stunning images, one already notorious: the death of a man with stomach cancer who is followed during his slow decline towards the grave.

But the series is likely to be remembered far longer for the innovative way it has used surgical and imaging methods to explore our inner selves. This is not, points out Richard Dale, the producer of the series, quite as simple as it might appear. Scanning techniques such as ultrasound or magnetic resonance imaging require a trained eye to identify much amid the mush. On their own, they do not make very arresting television.

"To make them work we had to find a way of paring away extraneous detail," he explains. "We spent a year writing a computer program to do that. What we were trying to achieve was a magic camera that can see things we cannot."

Among the things it sees are the processes of human reproduction, from the release of the egg to fertilisation, pregnancy and birth. Cameras travel down the oesophagus to the stomach, or catch the vocal cords vibrating by stroboscopic light. Sweat pours from the glands, and hairs sprout monstrously from the scalp.

Time-lapse photography is used to show how the infant daughter of Kathy and Richard Ibbotson, both dentists, came by her first set of teeth. For six months they regularly put her in a fixed position in front of a camera to take the pictures that were then assembled into a few seconds of film, showing her teeth erupting through the gums.

For the first time, the use of the word eruption for this process is understandable. "How long it seemed to take," says Kathy Ibbotson, with feeling.

Among the most original sequences are those taken by "motion capture", in which infra-red sensitive reflectors attached to various parts of the body are tracked to trace precise movement. These films,



Facts of life: Professor Robert Winston with a baby "breathing" under water during the BBC series, *The Human Body*. Babies lose the ability after six months

including a baby crawling across the floor and dissolved by computer wizardry into a mere skeleton, have the quality of Eadweard Muybridge's pioneering films of movement taken a century ago.

The presenter of *The Human Body* is Professor Robert Winston, of Hammer-smith Hospital, a leading expert in fertility, a frequent commentator on medical ethics and now also a member of the House of Lords. He sportingly rides a rollercoaster as a metaphor for puberty, and plunges into a pool with a group of newborn babies, as well as popping up at the Pyramids and other exotic locations.

The scene in the pool displays the uncanny and little understood ability of babies to swim under water without taking water into their lungs. Although it lasts only a few minutes on screen, it took 30 people, 12 hours and a huge amount of sophisticated equipment to capture it.

On film, it looks as if the babies are swanning about in a vast pool, alone save for Lord Winston, moustache bristling inside a huge diving mask as he delivers his lines to camera. In fact, the pool was tiny, and packed with helpers and mothers, all dressed head-to-toe in blue so that the computer could eliminate them from the final image.

Why can babies do this? Nobody knows, although Lord Winston hazards a guess that it may be a hangover from the origins of life in the sea, or a continuation of foetal existence in a liquid-filled womb. The instinct is lost after the age of six months.

Odder still is the sequence in which a camera pans past 100 people in a Surrey wood, most of whom are stark naked. The aim is to show all the human ages, from a baby to a centenarian, and to reveal the effects of the passing years. Organising this particular shoot must have been a lot of fun.

Lord Winston's presence in the series was a late decision. "We hadn't originally planned to have a presenter at all," says Richard Dale. "Producers don't like presenters, though the public loves them. And it is very hard to find a really good one."

"But as we began the production, it became plain that while the people we were following and filming had a very strong voice, the science didn't. We needed a presenter to give the science equal billing. Robert Winston was the obvious choice — he's very personable, a great expert, and he does the voiceover with real authority. We think it has all married together well."

Dale says that the production team considered it a failure if they came up with a picture that needed an explanation. So *The Human Body* promises to be no dry exercise in anatomy. It should be packed with gripping facts and vivid images. With luck, it will tell us all something new. The final programme will explain how the series was made, revealing the tricks that revealed the body.

● *The Human Body* is broadcast on BBC1 at 10.30pm on Wednesday nights. The book of the series is by Anthony Smith

Screen gems gain extra polish on the radio

The future of television is radio, proclaimed Chris Evans at the Sony awards last week, when he collected a special golden gong for his personal contribution to the medium.

This week, another Sony winner, the Asian sketch show *Goodness Gracious Me*, returned to Radio 4 after a hugely successful series on BBC2. Although a host of radio shows, including *Knowing Me, Knowing You*, *Who's Line Is It Anyway* and *After Henry*, have graduated from radio to television, it is now becoming increasingly common for comedy to make the return trip. "I always presumed that once a show moved to television it would never go back to radio," says Anil Gupta, the series' producer. "But we felt quite indebted to the medium. When the programme went to BBC2, we agreed to go ahead with another Radio 4 series."

In this hi-tech, digital age, radio is often regarded as the poor relation of the mighty television. But the mass audiences who tune in to the likes of Alan Partridge, Chris Morris's *Brass Eye* and Evans's *TFI Friday*, forget these were only made stars by radio.

"Radio is ideal for trying out new sketches and characters because it is more forgiving. Audiences are more loyal and less hostile to new ideas," says Gupta. "It is then possible to adapt gaps that we have tested on the radio for a television format."

Gupta's second comedy production — *The Way It Is* — was also launched this week on Radio 4. The programme satirises both the week's news and the way the media presents it.

Radio 4 hopes that the show will take the place of *Week Ending*, dropped in April as part of James Boyce's controversial revamp, and provide the same spawning ground for new talent. "There is no doubt that *Week Ending* was out of date after 28 years of transmission. We had a brief to come up with something similar to which uncommissioned writers could contribute," says Gupta.

A month on from the scheduling changes, he believes that most of the criticisms that have been levelled at Radio 4 are unjustified. "Listeners find it hard to adapt to change. When *Week Ending* was launched, Jonathan James Moore, later to become BBC Radio 4's *Head of Light Entertainment*, described it as dire. Then, 28 years on, people complain when it is removed.

"There is a new-found confidence in radio at present. While television is on the brink of a digital age that will see it fragmenting, radio has already experienced and learnt to cope with diversity. Radio is comfortable competing in a commercial environment where niche audiences are vital."

Could this be the correct interpretation of Evans's prediction?

BRIDGET HARRISON

● *The Way It Is*, Wednesday 11pm, *Goodness Gracious Me*, Thursday 6.30pm; both Radio 4

SATURDAY. ANYTHING BUT A DAY OF REST.

SPORT
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THE TIMES

■ JENNI MURRAY, the mumsy but famously anti-marriage presenter of *Woman's Hour*, is being tried out by Rosie Boycott as *The Express's* big-name weekly columnist.

She replaces Anne Robinson, who has gone on to better things at *The Times*, but will be appearing on Tuesdays rather than in the traditional Wednesday slot, because she is tied up with her programme then. Mary Kenny, *The Express's* voice of motherhood, will be encouraged to channel her views towards *The Express on Sunday*, while Sir Bernard Ingham will be used only occasionally.

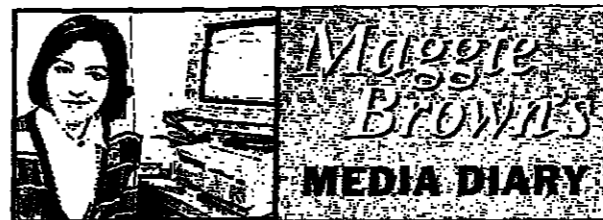
But can the most eloquent voice in BBC radio sharpen her talons to craft those spiky paragraphs that are the hallmark of the top performers? Jean Rook, the old *Daily Express's* "bitchiest woman in Fleet Street", must be turning in her grave. It is also a fact that few celebrity stars make consistently good columnists. Boycott assures me Murray is a good writer, and she will have sub-editors



Anne Robinson: moved

to assist her — though surely they will stop short of that giveaway footnote... "as told to..."

■ ROSIE BOYCOTT was the guest speaker this week at the Media Society, where she tried to claim the moral high ground of campaigning journalism, while... thing to sign up the pardon. Saudi nurses at the same time as encouraging schoolchildren to give their sweetie money to *The Express's* current bid to help save the people



of Sudan from starvation.

■ A FORMER Editor (1980-83) of *The Express*, Christopher Ward, rose to challenge Boycott, with the best line of the day: "It is very hard, very hard indeed, to go out for a decent lunch and not meet at least one of us."

■ ITV WILL finally screen *Animal Rescuers* about the RSPCA's "safe haven for abused or abandoned animals", in July. But this version of BBC1's *Animal Hospital* was originally pencilled into the past winter's schedules as *Blackberry Farm*. I hear that the new team at the ITV Network Centre deemed the first version untransmittable and demanded a remake, with 20 to 30 per cent new footage. Linda Bellingham's role was reduced to narrator from presenter, under the guidance of an ex-BBC veteran, Nick Sherman. The move is part of a drive to raise standards, and has caused a row over who bears the extra costs. The series' maker? Carlton Television.



Richard Addis: rumours

■ MEANWHILE, Richard Addis, another former Editor of *The Express*, has promised to write an account of his being sacked by Lord (Clive) Hollick, Spectator Editor, Frank Johnson, says: "Increasingly, editors are gagged by proprietors, so they can't write the truth." So will Addis's account be worth the space, since he's being paid off over two years by the canny Hollick? "He can still

work for their specific titles. Sally Cartwright, *Hello's* publisher, said she was dubious about a small-screen version of her magazine — television tended to drag everything down-market. The only time *Hello!* has been tempted was when the then Charles Spencer might have fronted something. Perhaps she should talk to Prince Edward's production company.

■ ANJANA AHUJA, a Times feature writer, was named the Best Print Journalist in the 1998 Ethnic Minority Media Awards, sponsored by NatWest Bank. Other winners included the Guardian writer Maya Jaggi (Best Written Feature), the Times contributor Henry Bonsu (Best Audio Journalist) and Martin Bashir (Best Visual Journalist). George Alagiah, the BBC's foreign correspondent, was voted the Best Television Personality.

■ HERE'S a statistic to conjure with. In 1987 British television channels showed 500 adverts per day. By 1997 with multichannel television, this had risen to 1,100. The forecast for 2002? Some 33,000 ads per day. Who says the licence fee is doomed?

■ I HEAR that Carlton Television, deep into the inquiry about whether *The Connection* documentary on drugs was a dodgy fake, has made no friends at the ITV Network Centre — responsible for running the channel — over the way it has handled it. The top new executive team, led by director David Liddiment, and the executives responsible for such strands (*The Connection* was before their time) received no prior warning or input from Carlton that the storm was about

to break in *The Guardian*, even though there are frequent high-level contacts, and Carlton knew it was imminent. "We arrived on the morning when *The Guardian* published the story, to find ourselves awash with calls," said one furious executive. "It's ridiculous." This potential breakdown of trust is very damaging — since the network centre hands out programme commissions — and may well result eventually in a big reshuffle at Carlton Television.

A life!

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A lifeline for Indonesians

For millions in the troubled country, the BBC provides the only source of reliable news, says Michael Leapman

President Suharto's resignation yesterday may have come as a surprise to Indonesians who rely on local media for their news, but the three million-plus listeners to the BBC's Indonesian language broadcasts were better prepared.

The regime exerts strict control on internal political reporting. Official bulletins are devoted chiefly to government pronouncements. They have included only sketchy accounts of the riots and demonstrations that finally forced the President to step down after 32 years in power.

But on Wednesday, just hours before the resignation, the BBC World Service Indonesian section's flagship daily current affairs programme presented a detailed analysis of the crisis facing the President, with a frank discussion of who was likely to succeed him.

The BBC can tell when its foreign language broadcasts are suddenly drawing in new audiences. Hundreds of news-hungry people telephone its regional offices and demand details of the times of transmissions and the exact spot on the short-wave dial where they can be picked up.

This has been happening for several weeks in Indonesia. Precise listening figures will not be available for a while, but they are thought to be significantly higher than the three million who tune in regularly, and as a result, the time devoted to broadcasting in Indonesian was increased this week to 2½ hours a day. It has meant a scalding baptism of fire for Menuk Suwondo, 38, the new head of the BBC World Service's Indonesian section. Appointed in March, she was not due to take up her post formally until next month. But for weeks she has been responsible for telling people what is really happening in this tinderbox of a country, which has dominated world headlines.

"I was supposed to do lots of courses before I started," she smiled, as we spoke after the transmission of Wednesday's prime-time news show. "But it looks like the real thing has taken over from the courses."

Ever since the Second World War, the BBC's foreign language broadcasts have played an especially significant role in countries whose domestic media are under strict government control. The 900 or so radio stations in Indonesia, although many are privately owned, are not allowed an independent news service. They are obliged to relay the official national bulletins from Jakarta and they supplement them only with local "information", which must have no political content.

"This means," Suwondo explains, "that they can tell drivers to avoid traffic jams caused by student demonstrations, but they can't say what the demonstrations are about." The BBC is under no such inhibition. Its

main daily news programme in Indonesian goes out from Studio C24 in Bush House, the World Service headquarters in London, at 2pm London time, 8pm in Jakarta. Normally, its agenda covers news from Asia and the world, but for the past two weeks it has been almost exclusively about Indonesia.

On Wednesday Menuk sat in the control-room watching through a soundproof window as a reader gave a nine-minute news round-up. Then the two presenters introduced 35 minutes of analysis and reports from all parts of the country. The final 15 minutes were a weekly feature on law, devoted to a timely discussion of President Suharto's legal position under the Constitution.

A strength of the BBC's operation is that it has Indonesian stringers (part-time correspondents) based in all parts of the sprawling country, who often submit reports that they are unable to get into local media.

As far as most overseas journalists were concerned, the big story on Wednesday was the cancellation of an opposition rally that had threatened to bring further chaos and destruction to central Jakarta. Yet although Jakarta was peaceful, there was a lot going on elsewhere.

A resident correspondent told of mass protests in Bandung in western Java. From Yogyakarta, 200 miles east, came a significant report that some traditional sultans had joined the campaign to oust the President. A student in Medan, northern Sumatra, also contributed an eyewitness account of thousands of people massing in the street.

"The man in Medan just came on the line to us out of the blue," Suwondo says. "That happens sometimes. They want the world to hear what is going on."

Feedback from listeners confirms the value they place on the BBC's service. They get in touch by letter and by e-mail. The flow of letters has slowed since January, when, during the economic changes that sparked the present instability, the price of writing paper climbed sharply. Now staff at Bush House put a blank piece of paper in with each reply, so the correspondent can write again.

To compensate for the lack of letters, many office workers and students now have access to computers, and e-mail messages are flooding in. Some give eyewitness reports: "The rioters were on the main roads in front of where I live... Terrifying." Many come from ethnic Chinese who are innocent citizens who have become scapegoats for any problems in Indonesia.

There is heartfelt editorialising: "I have advice for those who live lavish lifestyles - just don't act in a way that causes jealousy to the poor."

And many praise the BBC's performance: "Since Saturday, the state



It has been a baptism of fire for Menuk Suwondo, new head of the BBC World Service's Indonesian section

television has disappeared - no news any more. We like to listen to you more and more." The BBC has just opened a Website where local news is reported in Indonesian.

Suwondo, a former correspondent for Reuters News Agency in Jakarta, goes back every year. The last time was in February, when she was helping to run a training course for stringers. "It was clear then that something big was going to happen," she recalls, "but we couldn't predict exactly when."

She has a personal stake in the crisis. Her parents live in Solo, central Java, where there has been serious rioting.

"It was terrible last week. On the day of the riot, I spent all day on the telephone to them. It was not just to make sure that they were all right, but also to get the story." Although she is now the administrative head of a section, Suwondo retains the instincts of a reporter. She often conducts down-the-line interviews with her stringers, and has nurtured

her contacts with the officials and politicians she knew when she worked in Jakarta.

In the days before Suharto stepped down, while thousands clamoured to leave Indonesia, she was longing to go back.

"I wish I were out there in the field," she says. "I've been a reporter all my life, and I like to be in direct contact with my sources."

As it turned out, she was able to influence events more effectively from the heart of London.

Viewer is the casualty in digital war

Sometimes you just have to write about really boring things - because they are important. The heart sinks when television executives talk about the "interoperability" of digital television set-top boxes. The problem is, as careful readers of newspapers will know, a digital television "revolution" is about to break out in Britain. There should be digital satellite, digital terrestrial and digital cable to choose from before the year is out.

The Independent Television Commission (ITC) and the Government want interoperability at least between satellite and terrestrial so that viewers are not stuck with a black box that cannot receive the services of another system. Cable operators usually provide the appropriate decoding equipment.

The problem is that BSKyB, the satellite venture in which News International, the owner of *The Times*, has a 40 per cent stake, is using a system developed by NDS, another Murdoch subsidiary. Meanwhile, British Digital Broadcasting (BDB), the main commercial terrestrial broadcaster, has chosen a French-developed system, SECA. Debate still rages about the extent to which the two are incompatible and the extent to which it matters.

It seems to be common ground that the BDB box does not have enough memory to handle the full seven-day BSKyB electronic programme guide - essential in finding your way around 200 channels - not to mention interactive services such as home shopping and home banking. The ITC could probably delay the BDB launch because interoperability is a condition of its licence, but it is prepared to accept that the first generation of BDB receivers will be able to handle only a slimmed-down programme guide, showing what is on now and what is on next.

On such a basis, consumers should be able to buy a plug-in card to link a satellite box with a terres-

trial box. The fear is that there is any whiff of incompatibility of standards the public will wait to see whether satellite or terrestrial comes out on top.

The issue gets more complicated - and starts to pass out of the hands of the ITC - because of a commercial agreement between BSKyB and BDB: the joint venture between Carlton Communications and Granada. BSKyB, which is supplying four channels to BDB under contract, says it has a

water-tight agreement that there should be full interoperability between the two boxes.

The satellite company has issued, but not yet served, a writ on BDB. If all that was not enough, the ITC has launched a consultation document on inter-operability and "open access". The commission wants to protect competition by ensuring that manufacturers are not forced to include proprietary technology "associated with a particular licensee's services" inside integrated television sets. Yesterday Gerald Kaufmann's Culture and Media Select Committee said that it was in the overwhelming interests of consumers that there be a fully open set-top box available at an acceptable price.

The committee, in its report on the future of broadcasting and communication, deplores the failure of broadcasters and manufacturers to cooperate on producing such a box and regrets "that the Government has not taken action to bring about such co-operation".

It is not too obvious what the Government could have done. But a lot of these rather abstruse issues should have been confronted a long time ago in the interests of consumers. That this has not happened is a bad omen for the launch of the television revolution. There is a "soft" launch of digital satellite coming next month with the full launch in September, followed by digital terrestrial in November.



Raymond Snoddy

A circulation game of two halves

To judge by letters to the Editor, Matthew Parris obviously struck a resounding chord with some *Times* readers last Friday when he devoted his column to an attack on the embourgeoisement of sport and especially football. Something awful was happening, he said. The nether world was rising up and seeping into the respectable world. Smart people were talking about sport and watching football. With the World Cup imminent, a sort of ice age for people with minds was on its way. Hibernation could be the only way out.

You're right, Matthew, you're right. Start searching for a darkened room now. With only 18 days to go before the opening match in France, World Cup fever is mounting, with national newspapers as the main cheerleaders.

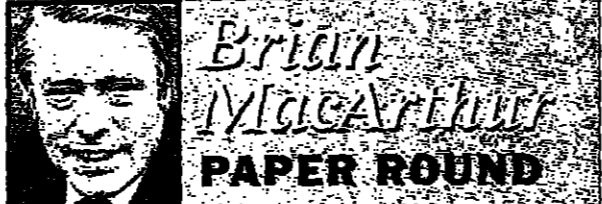
Even a month ago, attempting to cash in early, the *Daily Mail* and *The Observer* were offering Panini stickers and photos of World Cup players. The *Sun* and *The Times* were offering sets of tickets and the *Sunday Mirror* had a 20-page pullout in its magazine.

This week the fever has got serious. The *Times* published the first of four weekly 32-page World Cup guides and the *Express* has launched an eight-week partwork. On Wednesday *The Sun* was promoting a free World Cup wallchart. *The Mirror* devoted its main opinion page, the "Voice of the Mirror", to an attack on the "stupid" actions of Paul Gascoigne after his recent night out on the town - a story that made the front page of *The Independent*. Author Alain de Botton in

The Express joined Parris in confessing that he was football-phobic. So were the thousands of French football-haters who, according to the front page of *The Daily Telegraph*, had teamed up in "Anti-Foot" cells dedicated to resistance, ridicule and escape from World Cup fever.

Its Paris correspondent Susannah Herbert was, meanwhile, starting a World Cup column in which she quoted a cerebral French transport spokesman saying that the cup was not just the cult football book which many believe made the middle-class male obsession with football respectable, has a lot to answer for.

Indeed, ask Alan Rusbridger, Editor of *The Guardian*, about the space that will be devoted to the cup and the first name he mentions is Hornby. Aren't we still in the post-Hornby boom, he rouses, hasn't football assumed an importance



Brian Maguire PAPER ROUND

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Indeed, ask Alan Rusbridger, Editor of *The Guardian*, about the space that will be devoted to the cup and the first name he mentions is Hornby. Aren't we still in the post-Hornby boom, he rouses, hasn't football assumed an importance

in middle-class life that it did not have ten years ago, and hasn't Hornby made football acceptable to the middle classes of London's trendy Islington?

There is also a more commercial reason why editors are so keen on the World Cup. Sales slump at the end of the football season and also drop as readers go away on summer holiday. Working against that trend, England's run of victories in Euro 96, the last great football festival, did wonders for sales. *The Sun's* sales leapt by up to 100,000.

So few spectators will be praying so hard for England and Scotland victories as the circulation managers of national newspapers. Sales of the major tabloids drop by up to 40,000 on Mondays and up to 20,000 on weekdays when the football season ends and there are no matches to report.

Yet English victories in World Cup matches will add 40,000-70,000 to sales, with additional boosts in the run-up to vital matches.

The effect will be similar if Scotland starts winning too. So victories will not only arrest

the seasonal decline in sales but football fans will be tempted to try newspapers they do not usually buy. Editors hope that some will change their daily newspaper if they enjoy what they read.

That is why *The Times* is pioneering with Vauxhall and ITV the first broadsheet interactive scratchcard sports promotion next month and why Vauxhall also has a deal with *The Mail on Sunday* to distribute 24 million CDs, each containing a chance to win cars and tickets to the cup. It is why *The Times* has a World Cup Fantasy League. *The Daily Telegraph* has a fantasy football promotion with Walkers Crisps, why *The Sun* has a scratchcard deal with Budweiser and why *The Sunday Times* will be publishing a guide to the World Cup, new Panini stickers, and is using Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, to front its television ads.

Newspaper editors and marketers have made their battle plans - *The Times* is sending a team of eight to France - and their aim is so to stir up interest in the World Cup that even those readers who do not normally watch football will catch the fever, start cheering for England and Scotland and follow the cup in their newspapers.

The truth, too, is that Alain de Botton and Matthew Parris exaggerate their case. Thousands of column inches will be devoted to the World Cup but modern newspapers are so big that I doubt that even in a 49-page tabloid more than eight pages will be devoted to the football in France. There will still be plenty to read that isn't about football.



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The Troubles he's seen

Denis Murray has covered Ulster for 25 years, and hopes to follow the story through to a peaceful conclusion. Interview by Raymond Snoddy

Trying to determine how many people will vote in favour of the Good Friday peace agreement in today's referendum in Northern Ireland may be a problem, but one thing is certain: the BBC's coverage of the unfolding events will be brought to you by Denis Murray. Murray has covered the Troubles in Ulster in print and broadcasting for almost 25 years from the kidnap of the racehorse Shergar to the funerals of the two policemen shot in Lurgan and the haunting image of a little boy trying hard not to cry.

Throughout today and late into the evening, Ulster's best-known face in the television news business will be standing in front of the camera outside Stormont or Belfast City Hall analysing the latest nuances for the multiplying BBC news outlets. Murray has a rather lugubrious face and a sing-song voice that seems ideally suited to bringing news of murder and mayhem. In another life he could have been a successful funeral director.

After covering years of bombings — as many as four or five a day — and tragedies that still linger in the mind, Murray is very happy to be covering political stories about Northern Ireland. He believes that a referendum result of 60 per cent in favour of the agreement would be tricky, although the politicians reckon they could live with 65 per cent. Anything approaching 75 per cent would be a triumph, says Murray, who will not say how he is voting, although it seems clear that he and his wife, Joyce, a physiotherapist, who have four school-age children, will tick "yes".

"You can't tell anyone how to vote," he says. "But one political fact about this agreement is that if the people of Northern Ireland say 'no', then Tony Blair isn't going to ignore it [the agreement], and no matter how long it takes, you are ultimately going to come up with something with shared responsibility and devolution for Northern Ireland cross-border bodies and links between the group of islands."

Last Thursday the broadcaster was missing from his post at the *Nine O'Clock News*, for he was visiting London — a city that he doesn't much care for — to attend the awards ceremony of the Royal Television Society, where he was chosen as journalist of the year. Inevitably, his portfolio of reports included funerals and



"I hope that the coverage shows the sheer scale of what has happened in the past two years — from the first day that Sinn Fein arrived at Castle Buildings"

shots of feet protruding from blankets, but he was "really chuffed" that the clip that was shown on the night to the black-tie members of the television industry showed David Trimble and the loyalist parties entering Castle Buildings to sit down with Sinn Fein for the first time.

"The one thing I hope we have got in the coverage, which you have to keep reminding yourself of, is the sheer scale of what has happened in the past two years, from the first day that Sinn Fein arrived at Castle Buildings to take up its offices, and not just stand outside the gates, to it agreeing with loyalist gunmen on the future of Northern Ireland," says Mur-

ray, who adds that even the "no" campaigners accept that there will be a "yes" vote.

Life could have been very different for Murray, who was born in 1951 in Evesham in Worcestershire of Northern Irish parents. It was the death of his father, who was a medical health officer, when he was five and the decision of his mother to return to Northern Ireland that changed everything.

Murray remembers precisely the moment when he decided to become a journalist. He was working on an edition of *Trinity News*, while a student at Trinity College in Dublin. "One Sunday morning

it suddenly hit me. I was laying out this page," he says. "I thought 'This is just brilliant. I am going to do this.' I decided right then that I was going to be a back."

He managed to persuade the *Belfast Telegraph* to give him a job as a graduate trainee in 1975, at the height of the violence. Murray would watch as a bomb was brought into the front of the Europa Hotel, or notice on the way home from work that a chemist's shop or a furniture shop that had been there in the morning no longer existed.

But one story in particular sticks in his mind. It was an interview with an eight-year-old boy who had seen his father murdered. "God forgive me, I can't remember the wee lad's name. With more than 3,200 murders, you can't remember all the names," says Murray. He will never, however, forget what the boy said. "Why does there have to be bad men? Bad men killed my Daddy. My Daddy wasn't a bad man."

Murray put the comment in the first paragraph of his news story. "That was a formative experience. I don't know a single journalist worth his salt who doesn't have one or two stories like that," adds Murray, who joined the Irish national broadcaster RTE before moving to the BBC in 1982 as Dublin

correspondent. He then moved north as the BBC's Northern Ireland political correspondent and covered the Anglo-Irish agreement in 1986. During those days, he started looking under his car every morning to ensure that there wasn't a bomb hidden there. Murray has just completed ten years as the BBC's Ireland

correspondent and hopes that he will be able to cover this story, almost from the beginning to the end. He does not specify what the end is, although it is clear that he is talking about an era in which "bad men" no longer go around killing people. But before then, Murray fears, there could be further violence from a small minority who are more extreme than either the Provisional IRA or the Ulster Volunteer Force.

Every now and again, Murray applies to become the BBC's Washington correspondent, in large part to prove to himself that he is able to cover other stories. "The last time they started asking me about the significance of trade between the United States and the Pacific Rim countries, at which point I had to strike the colours. I don't think that the BBC is going to want me to broadcast from anywhere else really," he says. And he probably does not really want to either.

How to stop making a drama out of your crisis

These days, the world is a dangerous place for even the most respected brand names. Not only is journalism more aggressive and intrusive but consumers are ever more demanding, knowledgeable and even litigious. If products are not up to scratch, news will travel fast and a company's reputation could be left in tatters.

A major threat to companies is now posed from the Internet, where complaints about a product can be easily spread, with no editorial control. But now, the fast-developing crisis-PR business, which aims to save reputations, is making use of the Net, too.

Edelman Public Relations Worldwide has just launched a special Internet crisis PR service, in which a special Website can go live and provide journalists, opinion-formers and staff members with information to counter a crisis story.

"The way a company responds during a crisis is as important as the outcome of the crisis itself," says Pat Roberts, deputy managing director of Edelman London. "Our Crisis Preparation and Response system allows a company to tackle issues by participating in every news cycle and communicating with target audiences."

Crisis or risk management is one of the fastest-growing areas of PR. A survey of 500 UK companies by Infolpan, a PR firm, reveals that 58 per cent saw crisis PR as worthy of the attention of senior management in 1994-95 but by 1996-97 the figure had risen to 84 per cent.

Some sectors are particularly vulnerable to crises: the food business (bacteria and foreign bodies), airlines (crashes and general passenger safety fears), the oil industry (spillages and pollution) and pharmaceuticals (health scares).

As David Broten, head of Crisis Management, Europe, at Hill & Knowlton, points out, anything that can damage the reputation of the company needs to be handled carefully. Companies are recognising that reputation and goodwill are something that can be measured. They can be worth 80 per cent of the value of the business.

Two brand names are synonymous with crisis public relations: Perrier and Tylenol. When traces of benzene were discovered in Perrier water, a company spokesman lightly dismissed the problem. After further conflicting statements from other company spokesmen, a recall was finally ordered. But the damage was done: a MORI poll revealed that Perrier's public image was seriously tarnished. Johnson & Johnson, though, reacted immediately when some of its Tylenol capsules were found to be contaminated with cyanide. It recalled millions of bottles and undertook a comprehensive public awareness campaign.

"The point about crisis PR is that you don't get a second chance," says Mike Regester, of Regester Larkin, a specialist consultancy. "Once you've lost momentum, it's almost impossible to get back." He advises clients to tell it all, tell it fast and tell it truthfully.

Rehearsing worst-case scenarios is also useful. "We'll bombard clients with faxes and phone calls from consumers and journalists," says Pat Roberts. The oil giant Shell regularly runs through disaster scenarios. "We even have people going down to a beach in their overalls and pretending that it has been hit with an oil slick," says David Stewart, of Shell. As Henry Kissinger says, an issue ignored is a crisis ensured.

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using a Touch-tone telephone and tap in their 12 selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply. Cheedline Check your score after the Monaco Grand Prix by calling 0891 884 648 (+44 990 100 348 ext UK) using your PIN from noon on Tuesday. Faxback Service Call our faxback service after noon on Thursday on 0991 111 444 (UK only). Faxback calls cost £1/minute. Transfers Change up to four selections before the Canadian race by calling 0891 555 994 (+44 990 100 394 ext UK) before noon on Thursday June 4.

OUR LEADERBOARD AFTER THE SPANISH GRAND PRIX

POS	TEAM	MANAGER	POINTS
1	Turbo Wilko	P Wilkinson	4831
2	Macher Bros 4	M Eiem	4802
3	Team 16	A Malakis	4794
4	Blue Eagles	P Adamson	4783
4	Archi-Spark	R Bullen	4783
6	Alphamega	J Godsmith	4751
7	Team Thomas	R Finn	4748
8	Hanno Hakkipen 1	L Skidmore	4745
9	Sanjay	P Dear	4743
10	Hannah's Spanners	D Scrogg	4736
11	Robber Loose	Z Chandler	4719
12	Top Voyage	G Briddon	4710
13	Ecurie Wobble	B Stoner	4709
14	Winning Formula	M Bishop	4707
14	Team Coffee Plus	S Parfitt	4707
14	Seagull	R Horwell	4707
14	New Street Racers	R Smith	4707
14	Magic 2	V Clark	4707
14	J T Racing	S Ridyard	4707
14	Head Banger	R Head	4707
14	Clark 1	V Clark	4707
22	Filter Trip	T Hudson	4705
23	Worth Waiting For	J Weir	4704
23	The Mac Lads	B Jordan	4704
23	Team Ortholab 1	P Bassant	4704
23	System Link	N Roy	4704
23	Supersonic	J Penn	4704
23	Personnel	P Collis	4704
23	Grommitt	S Lau	4704
23	Broadhead's Aces	D Broadhead	4704
23	No Name	R Greaves	4704

MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW

The first column of figures after the names below, shows the Fantasy Formula One race scores for the Spanish Grand Prix. The second column shows the total points in the competition so far

DRIVERS

GROUP A		GROUP B	
01 D Hill	55 376	12 A Wurz	120 531
02 M Schumacher	124 590	13 R Schumacher	102 285
03 D Coulthard	140 702	14 J Trulli	120 324
04 G Fisichella	41 365	15 J Herbert	111 389
05 J Villeneuve	121 535	16 M Salo	21 191
06 O Panis	83 447	17 P Diniz	12 46
07 H-H Frenzen	118 600	18 J Magnussen	112 247
08 E Irvine	39 541	19 T Takagi	108 283
09 M Hakkinen	165 676	20 R Rosset	0 207
10 J Alessi	112 541	21 S Nakano	108 241
11 R Barrichello	123 305	22 E Tuero	97 343

CONSTRUCTORS

GROUP C		GROUP D	
23 Williams	21 83	29 Sauber	20 62
24 Ferrari	9 101	30 Arrows	-30 -82
25 Benetton	13 49	31 Stewart	22 -4
26 McLaren	30 135	32 Tyrrell	14 -36
27 Jordan	6 14	33 Minardi	8 -24
28 Prost	8 -2		

Citroën's body work pranged



Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of Campaign. He is a former Citroën employee who has been critical of the company's advertising. He says that the company's advertising is "too big" and that it is "exploiting" the company's name. He also says that the company's advertising is "too big" and that it is "exploiting" the company's name.



Classy chassis: Claudia Schiffer in the Xsara ad

As Camelot acknowledges, in advertising terms the launch of the lottery was "textbook". The finger proved to be an instantly recognisable branding device, and the slogan passed into the language. But there has been a certain waning of interest, and the Instant scratchcards have been a relative disappointment. But in the saga of Camelot's image problems, advertising has been relatively blameless alongside the appalling television problem and the PR disasters of fat-cat salaries and G-Tech. Still, the slogan itself may need looking at. "It could be you" was clever when nobody had played the lottery, let alone won it. Then it really did seem possible that the average punter might win. However, two years on, how many people do you know who have actually won a big prize? "It could be you" therefore becomes a less pregnant proposition, and the line may have less credibility.

YET more World Cup-related ads. A funny, well-directed Adidas spot shows the young David Beckham being given a hard time by a teacher telling him to forget football and go for a proper job. Arsenal's double-winning captain, Tony Adams, pops up in a bizarre Jaffa Cakes spot, which completes his remarkable rehabilitation from public alcoholic to pillar of England. But the most famous name of all is missing — Gazza. Where are his ads? Stefano Hatfield is the Editor of Campaign

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Find me a book with a bird on the spine and it will be good

Under new chairman Michael Lynton, Penguin looks set to spread its wings. Interview by Raymond Snoddy

Michael Lynton, the chairman of Penguin Books, likes to tell the story of how Terry Waite, while a hostage in Lebanon, got access to one of his jailers that he wanted a book to read. Mr Waite drew a picture of a bird within an oval and told his captors: "Find me a book with this on the spine and it will be a good book."

The "oval and the bird" are important to Mr Lynton, the former Wall Street banker who also ran Disney's Hollywood Pictures before the surprise of the publishing community, taking over Penguin following the departure of Peter Mayer in September 1996.

A man who understands marketing and finance as well as books, Lynton used to buy Penguins in a bookshop where he was brought up in Holland. "The Penguin company share a history of working with each other for 50 years," says the former student, who wrote a dissertation on the Italian novels of E. M. Forster while at Harvard.

The bird already has a powerful presence in cyberspace. About 95 per cent of Penguin's backlist sales in America come through

Amazon.com, the virtual bookstore on the Internet. "The moment we get the oval and bird people will say 'I'll buy that'. If there are 50 versions of Jane Austen my hope is that they will choose the Penguin first," Lynton says.

The bird still has a long way to go. Last Christmas Lynton was shopping for a good recording of Handel's *Messiah* and didn't know which one to choose. The result is the launch in September of Penguin Classic CDs in a joint venture with PolyGram, selling in the US at \$9.95 (£6.20). This is fitting as the *Penguin Guide to Classical Music* gives a large number of its rosettes to PolyGram, a company that has been put on the block by its majority shareholder.

Philips of The Netherlands. The new CDs will carry the familiar Penguin livery and will have accessible musical notes, rather than obscure musicology, written by Penguin authors. Meanwhile, the bird is also going to make its debut on television this autumn. Penguin Playhouse plans to sponsor productions of Penguin Classics for cable television in America.

A decade ago it was Lynton who took Disney into a number of new



Michael Lynton has journeyed by way of Wall Street and Hollywood to become Penguin's chairman and chief executive

areas such as magazines and books further to exploit its characters and copyright — something he is now doing at Penguin, part of Pearson, the media and entertainment group.

When he was approached by Peter Mayer, who was retiring to run the small publishing firm founded by his father, Lynton says he was not planning to leave Disney but the chance to take charge at Penguin was too great a temptation. "It was something I really loved. It struck me as the only brand in publishing. I also felt that despite what a great publisher Peter was, there was a lot that could be done, both in publishing and in other areas of media."

Not only is he content with pushing the Penguin brand through classical music, television and the Internet. Lynton is using the latest computer technology to print books virtually on demand. Sales of some of the more obscure titles on Penguin's 25,000-strong backlist sell only 300-500 copies a

year, making them difficult and expensive to store. Lynton is about to buy a new machine that can print copies there and then in the warehouse from hard disc.

"It will look like a proper book and although it might be slightly distinguishable from the other [conventionally produced copies], I don't think we will get any complaints. It will certainly cut down inventory costs," says the transatlantic 38-year-old, who switches effortlessly between English, Dutch, French and German.

Recently he was profiled in *The New Yorker* magazine under the headline "The Hollywood Way". The magazine said of him: "Lynton has rather sad Pacino-like eyes, a broad mouth, shaggy brown hair and looks less like an executive than a post-adolescent character actor." That said, the closest Lynton actually got to the stage was building sets for avant-garde productions while at Harvard.

Lynton arrived at Harvard via an international school in The

Hague. The family were German refugees and the family business is an aluminium products and window coverings company in Rotterdam. After Harvard, and an MBA which he didn't enjoy very much, he was the Eighties, so he joined the herd to Wall Street, working for First Boston Corporation/Credit Suisse First Boston. He didn't like being attached to a bleeper seven days a week but thought it "was very heady, very exciting stuff". Looking back, Lynton believes that sitting down with the finance directors of major corporations at the age of 23 gave him a very distorted view of business.

At Disney he worked for Steve Burke, who started Disney stores and now runs the ABC network. "I chose publishing partly because I loved it and partly because I thought it was a good business for Disney to be in," says Lynton, who turned Disney's magazine and publishing activities through imprints such as Hyperion Books into a business with a turnover of \$300

million (£187 million), within five years.

Then he was asked by the Disney boss Michael Eisner to restore the fortunes of Hollywood Pictures. Disney's live action studio. Lynton caused a stir by snapping up the rights to Nicholas Evans's novel *The Horse Whisperer* for \$3 million on the basis of a partial manuscript faxed from the Frankfurt Book Fair. There were considerable hits such as *Crimson Tide* and *The Santa Clause*, profitable movies like *The Rock* and *Mr Holland's Opus*, and a few misses such as *Filofax* and *Leave It to the Bellboy*.

But the pressures were increasing. Fewer expensive, higher-risk movies were being made and Lynton decided that he didn't like Hollywood and the fact that nobody ever talked about anything but films. "I was a little bit like a fish out of water there. I didn't like the fact that business and home life were indistinguishable, and it went round the clock," he says.

Even before joining Penguin, he

was offered Putnam Berkley, the general publisher whose authors included popular writers such as Tom Clancy, Patricia Cornwell and Dick Francis. At his first Pearson budget meeting Lynton found himself asking for, and getting, \$330 million to buy the company.

This week Pearson reaffirmed its commitment to the printed word by paying \$3.6 billion for the educational imprints of Simon & Schuster, although that will become part of the company's education division, Addison Wesley Longman, not Penguin.

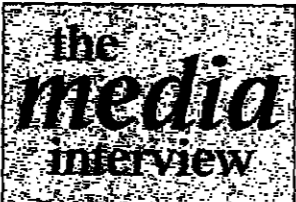
The purchase led to the discovery of a book-keeping scandal at Penguin. "One of the retailers asked one of the people in credit at Putnam if they were now going to get the same deal from them as they got from Penguin. It came on to my desk," says Lynton. He dealt openly with the unauthorised discounts and allegations of fraud and Pearson has had to make a \$100 million provision. "The authorities haven't decided yet on prosecution. But as far as we are concerned it is all completely done within the \$100 million," says Lynton.

As for the wider future of publishing, the Penguin chairman is an optimist. Everything from consolidation of the industry and the Internet, which looks as if it is bringing in new readers who would not necessarily have gone into a bookshop, to print on demand and the migration of "the bird" to other sectors and products is starting to turn publishing into a "very, very good business", he believes.

"There has been an extraordinary move to quality, certainly in the US. The baby-boom generation wants to read quality literature. They want to feel that the time they spend reading is good time," says Lynton, who points to books such as *Cold Mountain*, *Perfect Storm* and *Longitude*.

Profit margins of 10 to 15 per cent rather than the more traditional 5 to 10 per cent really are possible, says the former mergers and acquisitions man. "But it always begins with publishing great books," the publisher and former literature student adds.

His thesis on Forster was about perspective and the links between art and the characters in *A Room With A View*. The "flat" characters who did not develop like the early Renaissance painter Giotto and the "round" characters who did develop appreciated Leonardo da Vinci of the High Renaissance. Michael Lynton, chairman and chief executive of Penguin Books, is definitely a round character.



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EDUCATION

Chalk it up to experience

Are student teachers thrust into the classroom with too little practical help, asks Fred Redwood

The latest in a long line of teacher training reforms was outlined this week. A national curriculum will lay down minimum standards in English and mathematics, and departments will be compared in league tables. But nothing in the plans will alter the often dispiriting experience student teachers encounter in schools.

Teaching practices, which are coming to an end in thousands of schools today, are the time to try out newly learnt classroom skills while moulding an acceptable "teacher persona". Inevitably, the beginners make mistakes — most commonly being too familiar too soon with the pupils. With the resilience of youth, though, most students immediately enter the profession, having put their more disastrous lessons down to experience. For a large number, however, this first experience of teaching is so demoralising that any thoughts of a teaching career are abandoned. So is enough being done to give student teachers the encouragement and support they need?

Michelle Addie, 22, is one student who is deeply dissatisfied with the way she was treated during her practice. Attractive, well-qualified and vivacious, she seems just the sort of young graduate most likely to carve out a successful teaching career. But having undertaken her practice in an average, Outer London comprehensive, she has changed her mind about teaching the subject she loves — dramatic art.

The head of drama at the school made it plain from the outset that he considered me a nuisance and he would have nothing to do with me. He went to the special smokers' staff room, so because I don't smoke, I had no social contact with him. He had a very 'ladish' relationship with the children — telling boys risqué jokes and keeping up banter about football. This was how he got by. But it made things difficult for me.

I received very little feedback about my teaching. Things came to a head when I was trying to teach a class of 15-year-old low-ability boys, many of whom had behavioural problems. They were offensive, wandering around, swearing at one another and not taking the slightest bit of notice of my instructions. I sent one to a senior teacher but that made things worse. I simply did not have the physical presence to control the situation. I tried to contact the teacher who was responsible for me and he was nowhere to be found. In fact, I



Special relationship: teaching practices are the time to use newly learnt classroom skills while developing a "teacher persona"

was the only adult in the whole building with this class of rioting boys. I was completely unnerved.

The whole experience put me off teaching — even though I have had previous experience of theatre in education, which I have enjoyed. I now want to work in the professional theatre.

The behaviour of the teacher/mentor on this occasion was extreme but the teacher training partnership which universities share with schools is more generally becoming a cause for concern. Schools are funded to the tune of £1,100 for each student they help to train. However, no control is exercised over how they use this sum. If the money goes out of the department running the training, it can create resentment. Ideally, the money should pay for supply cover when the teacher/mentor conducts a brief of a lesson — yet this seldom occurs.

Joan Whitehead, the Associate Dean at the University of the West of England, has undertaken research on the quality of support for student teachers and she has found it to be variable. "The concept of the university/school partnership is a good one," she says. "Students can enrich the staffroom and the process can lead to further staff training. But for the partnership to work there simply must be adequate and properly directed funding."

Many student teachers also criticise the lack of advice they receive at university before they teach a class of children for the first time. Richard Duncan has recently passed his course at a North of England university. "I can recall receiving only a single hour's lecture on classroom management skills," he says, "and that's not nearly enough."

"All the role-plays we enacted dealt with idealised situations, so we were completely unprepared for children being disruptive. We simply didn't know what to do if a child swore at us. Yet things like this happen in schools. In my subject, physical education, we practised lessons with ample equipment in large sports halls, pretending to teach our colleagues — who, obviously, wanted to participate. But this is a fantasy when compared to real teaching. We were not taught the skills we need to teach — just the subject."

Richard would also like students to be given more background information on the schools where practices are due to take place. To be too liberal in a strict regime can be a recipe for mayhem, yet Richard learnt of his placement only two weeks before his practice. He did not even receive a handbook to give him an idea of what type of school he would be visiting.

Another gripe is that student teachers are not visited by subject specialist lecturers. General advice on classroom management which may be applicable to an English specialist teaching sixth form may have no relevance to a lower school music teacher.

More than anything, Richard would like to see the role of the school in teacher training more clearly defined, with good teacher/mentors given more time to spread their expertise. "Students should have individual consultations with successful teachers at the target schools before their practices. Teaching methods which work there should be spelt out and there should be more advice on discipline. Most of the people on my course have had harrowing experiences on teaching practice and many are reconsidering whether they want to go into teaching. This represents a tremendous waste in terms of time, effort and money."

The Teacher Training Agency is pleased with recent developments in its training programmes. Jackie Sulker, the agency's head of policy, says: "The quality of support for student teachers has improved immeasurably over the past three years — mainly because of the increased involvement of the schools." It is a sentiment with which Michelle Addie and Richard Duncan would not agree.

Tony Higgins on a flawed grading system

We are now into the examination season and so here is a test question: You get ten points for a grade A at A level and 2 points for a grade E at A level; therefore an A is five times better than an E. You get an A at A level with 70 per cent and an E at A level at 40 per cent; therefore an A is slightly less than twice as good as an E. Discuss.

The A-level points system was devised by the former Universities Central Council on Admissions, one of Ucas's predecessor organisations, many years ago as an internal accounting mechanism through which to present statistics of student performance on entry to higher education. The system has been hijacked by many others, without the permission of Ucas, and used for a variety of purposes, including the construction of league tables.

Marks are marks, and grades, encompassing a certain spread of marks, are grades. The points allocated to grades go in an arithmetical progression and are not in proportion to the marks contained within the grades and therefore the performance achieved. In other words, all league tables which use Ucas A-level points scores are fundamentally and fatally flawed.

But it gets worse. Any league table which tries to compare schools and colleges or higher education institutions is almost certainly, by definition, deficient. That is because only performances at AS or A level are allocated a points score to enable a table to be constructed. The achievement of school and college leavers or entrants to higher education in other qualifications, such as the advanced GNVQ, is ignored.

The Government proposes that, this year, achievement in the GNVQ will also be scored: a distinction will be given 18 points, a merit 12 points and a pass four points. The GNVQ aligns with two A levels, hence this proposal. The merit, for example, would be the equivalent of two grade Cs at A level.

To allocate points to the GNVQ this way would indicate that a student entering higher education with a distinction, ie, with 18 points, would enter university or college with the same average number of points as A-level candidates, ie, 18 points or three grade Cs.



Why tables are missing the point

ing boards, the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, the Scottish Qualifications Authority, the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department and the Department for Education and Employment are at an advanced stage so that a new points system, which genuinely represents achievement, is on the way. Qualifications to be included, if we can get agreement, will be A and AS level, the GNVQ (which in the future will be grades A, B, C, D and E (like A level), Scottish Highers and Advanced Highers and the International Baccalaureate.

The broad range of qualifications offered on entry all carry a comparative points level. The current shape of the table places the older universities up in the premier league, largely because they are taking students offering good grades at A level. It may be that this will change when those institutions that take in highly qualified advanced GNVQ students can have their intake represented in the tables.

Part of the Ucas development of a more appropriate points system is to allocate points to the achievement of measured key skills. Assessment of key skills has been fundamental to the advanced GNVQ since its inception but not to the more traditional school-leaving qualification of A level.

It could well be that schools, colleges and universities find themselves at one position in the league table of performance of their leavers or of their intake in the basic qualifications offered, and at a completely different position in the performance of their leavers or intake in the key skills league table.

● The author is chief executive of Ucas.



Teaching in Japan: more than 500 Britons go every year to improve what is often badly spoken English

John O'Leary reports on a little-known bridge between two cultures

WHEN diplomats were planning Emperor Akihito's visit to London, one of the first events to be pencilled in was a meeting with graduates of the JET Programme, which takes more than 500 Britons a year to teach in Japanese schools.

Comparatively little known in Britain, the programme is celebrated in Japan as a linguistic and cultural landmark. The simple step of introducing children to foreigners at school is credited with opening up a still insular society to outside influences. Improvement in spoken English is taken as a bonus.

The value placed on the scheme by the Japanese was obvious when Crown Prince Naruhito attended JET's tenth anniversary celebrations in Tokyo. Next week's meeting with 50 alumni during the Emperor's visit to Kew Gardens will be an even greater token of esteem.

The original scheme was the brainchild of Nicolas Maclean, executive director of the Prudential Corporation in Asia, who arranged the first exchanges 20 years ago. He is still involved in the selection of candidates for what has become the biggest programme of its type in the world. The Japan Exchange and Teaching programme, as it became in 1985, now involves 18 countries and 800 graduates a year, at a cost approaching £200 million.

Most of the participants go as language assistants in Japanese schools, helping to raise the often woeful standard of pupils' spoken English. The all-important university examinations test only written English, so there has been little incentive to concentrate on the spoken language.

A Japanese love affair with Britain

some join a new branch of the scheme teaching physical education.

Few of the teachers speak Japanese when they arrive. More than half have taken humanities or social science degrees, but only 17 per cent of British students interviewed for places have studied languages, and a mere 3 per cent Japanese. Most stay in Japan for two years, however, often in communities with few English-speakers, so they soon develop a reasonable level of proficiency in the language.

The experience is invariably character-building, especially where the JET participant is the only foreigner. He or she — women account for 55 per cent of British interviewees — often have to deal with social and professional situations they will not have encountered previously. Though Japanese teacher is very much in charge, many give their JET assistants great responsibility, leaving them to cope with classes after only minimal training.

The calibre of participants is high because every place attracts at least four applicants. Yet returning graduates find that companies are not falling over themselves to employ them. The JETs arrive back in the summer, when places have already been allocated on graduate training programmes, and tend to be

seen as aspiring teachers when they are more likely to pursue a career in business or industry.

David Briggs — who has degrees from Warwick and Sheffield universities, as well as two years as a JET teacher — has set out to raise the profile of the programme in Britain. As chairman of the JET Alumni Association and one of the people meeting the Emperor, he has begun selling the virtues of the participants to big companies and helping those returning to help themselves.

Mr Briggs, who is working in graduate recruitment before joining Barclays Bank, says: "I tell firms that if they are looking for good people with initiative and adaptability, who can be sent to another country at a moment's notice and cope, the JET programme is the ideal recruiting ground. You have to develop those qualities as a JET." He sees parallels with MBA courses in the qualities that employers might expect to find, and he would like to emulate the business schools in the way that they advise and "market" their graduates.

The main task, however, is to ensure that the programme is as well known in Britain as it is in Japan. Kathryn Verey, who taught in Nagano and is now the programme's co-ordinator in London, says: "It is time that more British people recognised the contribution that the Japanese Government has made to the lives of many young people here."

"We are quick to look to the past and point out where we have been wronged, but slow to appreciate the genuinely warm and generous welcome given to JET participants and other visitors to Japan."

● Further information: JET desk, Council on International Exchange, 52 Poland Street, London W1V 4UQ (0171-478 3010)

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RUGBY UNION

Scotland decide to bring in Gilmour

BY DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND plan to introduce two newcomers to international rugby against Fiji in a new Tuesday fixture...

They will have a new combination in midfield, where Cameron Murray starts an international for the first time...

Gilmour wins promotion from the team that made a lean sweep of its A internationals this season...

In Australia, Michael Lynagh has warned his compatriots against overconfidence before a weakened England's arrival for the one-off international in Brisbane on June 6.

"The last time Australia played England it was 15-15 so wouldn't be too quick to jump on the bandwagon and start saying England are hopeless," Lynagh said.

Martin Bayfield, the former England lock who won 31 caps, has retired. A persistent neck injury has forced the 31-year-old forward out of the game...

Mike Ruddock, the director of rugby for Leinster, has urged himself out as a contender for the Wales coaching job...

Leeds at last begin to tap reservoir of potential

Murray takes Rhinos off the endangered list

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE



ANDREW VARLEY

AFTER two decades and nothing to show for the star names and big spending, humility and the common touch have transformed the notoriously underachieving Leeds Rhinos...

Put an alchemist such as Murray in charge of Brisbane Broncos and you sense he would be unhappy. In four months he has brought dramatic improvements with the base-metal talents at Leeds...

"Highly paid personalities are all well and good, but I got the impression that Leeds would turn it on one week and turn off the next," Murray said.

Leeds beat Wigan Warriors in an epic encounter last Friday night before a crowd that looked larger than the 18,000 capacity...

Having watched the game in an Oxfordshire pub, an American businessman was not alone in ringing the next day for tickets...

standing prop forward of the season, nor that Dean Lawford or Anthony Farrell would become cornerstones of a devastating pack...

With Harris, it was more a case of man management. I liked the way he jumped at my suggestion that he be captain, having you best player as captain and goalkicker...

No signing, though, has had the impact of Murray, 43. It took the demise of the Hunter Mariners as a result of the peace deal in the sport in Australia to bring him to Leeds...

After their early Challenge Cup elimination, there was no basis for judging Leeds other than a mid-table team this season. I like the thought of sneaking up on people and playing our best when people least expect it...

Murray has transformed the fortunes of Leeds Rhinos, a club that has underperformed in rugby league for years...

another," Murray said. "I told the players this and issued that as their challenge. We rose to that challenge against Wigan, but it doesn't stop there."

As a warning of the need not to get carried away, Leeds meet Sheffield Eagles, the only other team to beat Wigan, at Don Valley Stadium tomorrow...

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2.10 GRAND PARADE LIMITED STAKES (22,697: 1m 31 196yd) (4 runners) 1 (2) B123 RANDOM BONDNESS 7 (21) R Rogers 5-9-12 A Middle...

2.40 VICTORIA GARDENS SELLING STAKES (21-0: 0:17,872: 51 213yd) (8) 1 (2) G 4 GREYER 5 M 11 (2) 11 (2) D Harrison 85 51...

3.10 FESTIVAL PARK MAIDEN STAKES (24,163: 1m 31 196yd) (9) 1 (1) CHARLIE GIGGLE R Simpson 4-8-13 M Galtcher 57 17...

3.40 JIM TAYLOR HANDICAP (22,905: 71 214yd) (13) 1 (2) 20-4 OUT LINE 17 (21) M McKeown 6-10-8 M Pollock (7) 71...

4.10 BRIGHTON CENTRE HANDICAP (31-0: 0:27,490: 51 59yd) (10) 1 (2) 3-40 BATHORNTON BELLE 11 E Wheeler 9-7 S Carson (7) 86...

4.40 DOME HANDICAP (22,905: 51 213yd) (17) 1 (2) 08-4 EASTERN PROPHETS 11 (21) F G Lewis 5-10-8 J Chad...

TOWCESTER

THUNDERER 6.20 Sunnugun, 6.45 Lay It Off, 7.15 Polo Ridge, 7.45 Benji, 8.15 Dear Do, 8.45 Specialize...

6.20 SHIRLEY LEES BIRTHDAY NOVICES HURDLE (22,460: 2m) (13 runners) 1 (2) 1 BRAMBELL DANCE 16 (21) M Williams 6-11-7 M S Dwyer (2)...

6.45 NATIONAL LETTERBOX MARKETING HANDICAP CHASE (23,088: 3m 11) (9) 1 (2) 1201 TOSKAY (21) D Williams 6-11-11 (7) M S Dwyer (2)...

7.15 WOODVIEW LIGHT TRANSPORT NOVICES HURDLE (23,154: 3m) (9) 1 (2) 08-4 THE FULL MONTY 14 (21) C Brown 6-11-12 M S Dwyer (2)...

7.45 PRAXIS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (23,316: 2m 6f) (9) 1 (2) 102-2 TROUBADOUR 10 (21) J Tamm 7-12-0 M S Dwyer (2)...

8.15 ENDERBY HANDICAP CHASE (23,548: 2m 110yd) (8) 1 (2) 141-1 COLONEL BLAZER 22 (21) M S Dwyer 6-11-10 A P McCoy...

8.45 GIBBS & DANDY HANDICAP HURDLE (22,805: 2m) (7) 1 (2) 21-2 MISS SM 18 (21) P Nicholls 6-11-10 C Gordon (2)...

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مكتبة من الأصل

MOTOR RACING

Villeneuve fumes over Rosset's crash course

FROM KEVIN EASON IN MONACO

THE only thing missing was the theme music from Rocky as Jacques Villeneuve waved his arms furiously at the hapless Ricardo Rosset during the practice session yesterday for the Monaco Grand Prix, which was watched by Sylvester Stallone, who is here researching his new movie about Formula One.

Whoever takes Villeneuve's role will need to spend overtime in the hairdresser's chair trying to replicate his new vivid blue hair colour. Rosset, though, might have to be played by Norman Wisdom if he keeps on getting into scrapes.

Yesterday he crashed into Villeneuve, the world champion, who condemned Rosset out of hand. "He has no right to be in Formula One. There are drivers who should not be part of Formula One and Rosset is one of them."

Villeneuve was on a flying lap when he caught up with Rosset's Tyrrell through the swimming-pool complex. Rosset appeared to move over so that the Canadian could go through the right-hander unimpeded, then, inexplicably, turned straight into the Williams.

Villeneuve leapt out of his car and for a moment looked as though he would make his point with a Rocky-style right hook. Instead, he made do with some forceful pointing at the Tyrrell's wing mirrors. Rosset's excuse seemed baffling for a sport in which you are expected to get past your rivals. "I should be angry," the Brazilian said. "I don't think that's an overtaking corner." The race stewards did not agree, warning him as to his future contact.

Villeneuve has little time for

the small band whose wealth or sponsorship has bought them seats in Formula One. Rosset, whose family owns a large clothing business, is reported to be bringing £5 million to Tyrrell, money that made him a more attractive choice than the proven Jos Verstappen.

"It is good to have a few drivers in Formula One that are paying, I guess," Villeneuve said with more than a hint of irony. "Whenever you get close to him, you think: 'What do I do now, he's going to take me off.' At this level of racing it shouldn't happen."

There were so many mistakes made yesterday that almost every driver had at least one excursion off circuit, including Michael Schumacher, who wrecked his car in the second session, slithering off out of Casino Square.

Giancarlo Fisichella provided the surprise of the day, putting his Benetton between the McLaren of Mika Hakkinen and David Coulthard on the time-sheet. Heinz-Harald Frentzen was fourth-fastest, Schumacher fifth and Eddie Irvine, in the second Ferrari, sixth.

All this was academic for Damon Hill, increasingly a forlorn figure. He still has not won a point at Jordan — and does not look like doing so this weekend.

He crashed in the morning and his gearbox seized up in the afternoon. As he contemplated another race floundering among the backmarkers, Hill was inevitably asked if he regretted joining Jordan instead of the all-conquering McLaren team.

"Regret is not the word," he said gloomily. "There is no point in regret. We can put our fingers on a few areas going wrong but it will be down to hard work and perseverance."

The chances that improvements can be made quickly enough to give him a ghost of a chance on Sunday seem as questionable as Rosset's status in Formula One.



Van den Boogaard, of Holland, puts Jane Smith under pressure during England's 3-2 World Cup defeat yesterday

England cave in after injury

Holland 3
England 2

FROM CATHY HARRIS IN UTRECHT

HOLLAND sent 14,000 supporters into a frenzy when they staged a marvellous late recovery by scoring two goals in a five-minute spell to secure a dramatic victory over England. Twice behind in the contest, Holland responded to the urgings of the massed ranks of their orange-clad supporters with a furious onslaught that proved too strong for England.

The turning-point came five minutes into the second half when Karen Brown, of England, was hit on the hand by a stinging penalty-corner drive from Dilliane van den Boogaard and played no further part in the game. She was taken to hospital with a suspected fracture although Maggie Souyave, the coach, hinted that it may not keep her out of the tournament.

Souyave said: "We always knew it would be a very physical encounter and I was pleased with the way the

players handled it. After we lost Brown we showed a lot of courage to battle on and lift our performance, but we didn't quite manage it."

It had all started so well for England, who went ahead through a precise penalty-corner strike from Lucilla Wright in the eighteenth

minute. Van den Boogaard levelled from Holland's third corner, which deflected in off the stick of Brown, who had conceded the set-piece.

Six minutes before the interval England silenced the crowd again when Purdy Miller stole in to glance home another corner shot from

Wright to restore their lead. However, the second half belonged to the home team.

Surging forward, they put the England defence under increasing pressure and it was only a matter of time before they equalised. Van den Boogaard hammered in her side's tenth penalty corner in the 63rd minute, and, four minutes later, Julie Deiters dived full length to touch a corner rebound over the line and put Holland ahead for the first time.

With two minutes left, the Dutch missed a great opportunity to take the game beyond England's reach when they were awarded a penalty stroke after Fiona Greenham body-checked Ellen Dubbeldam-Kuipers, but Carolyn Reid pulled off a fine save, diving low to her right, to deny Carole Thate.

ENGLAND: J. Emson (Canterbury), M. Shaw (Canterbury), K. Brown (Surrey), J. Moore (Lancaster), K. Moore (Oxford), J. Smith (Surrey), J. Miller (Lancaster), J. Smith (Surrey). Substitutes: S. Blanks (Lancaster), L. Copeland (Surrey), J. Brown (Leicestershire), S. Sturtell (Oxford), Greenham (Oxford).
HOLLAND: D. Toon, M. Smagers, J. Deiters, D. van den Boogaard, A. Brown (Surrey), J. Smagers, C. Thate, M. Teuwen, M. Dornies, S. van der Wielen, E. Dubbeldam-Kuipers. Substitutes: F. van de Kolk, J. Leunig, F. Moreira de Melo, I. van den Broek, Urspröcher, N. Kato (Japan) and G. Spalter (Italy).

Pakistan concessions give England hope

THE subtle refinements of Asian hockey drew a crowd of 3,000 here in Utrecht yesterday as Pakistan, the holders, romped to a 7-2 victory over Malaysia in pool B of the World Cup (Sydney Friskin writes).

Pakistan's ruthless forwards dominated throughout, but their defenders' concession of 12 short corners through reckless tackling should be a concern. If they do the same tomorrow against England they could pay a heavy price, with Calum Giles now on top form.

Pakistan's key player was Shahbaz Ahmed, the inside left, who scored a goal and had a hand in two others.

Rahim Khan gave them a ninth-minute lead, after good work from Mohammed Usman. They went further ahead through Mohammed Shahbaz and Shahbaz Ahmed, before Sohail Abbas made it 4-0 just before the interval from a short corner.

Tahir Zaman, with a penalty stroke, Kamran Ashraf and Atif Bashir completed Pakistan's scoring, with Nor Saiful replying twice for Malaysia from short corners.

Also in pool B, Australia beat Poland 9-0. Stacy and Choppy each scored twice and further goals came from Commens, Lewis, Brennan and Davies. India lost 4-1 to Germany in pool A.



Stallone, who is planning a film on Formula One, picks up a few tips from Schumacher in the pits yesterday

30p THE TIMES

GET TO GRIPS WITH THE HAND OF GOD.

Begin Bridge with *The Times*: Lesson 6 - MiniBridge 1

As I said in a previous lesson, bridge is composed of two phases: the bidding followed by the play. There is a Catch-22 situation: the bidding is incomprehensible to anyone who doesn't understand the rudiments of the play, but the play cannot commence until the bidding is over. In *The Times* before MiniBridge this was a difficult problem for bridge teachers. MiniBridge was invented (in Holland and France virtually simultaneously but with slightly different rules) to circumvent this difficulty. It is a way to start playing bridge without bothering with the bidding. When everyone is familiar with the procedures of play, then the bidding can be added.

The preliminaries are as I have described earlier. Four players sit down and perhaps cut for partners. The shuffle and deal take place just as for bridge. Everyone picks up their cards and sorts them. The next thing is for each player to add up his high-card points. Generally speaking, high-ranking cards are more likely to take tricks than low-ranking ones, honour cards taking more tricks than non-honour cards. Aces take more tricks than kings, which take more tricks than queens, etc. The point-count system (which you will also meet when you move on to bridge proper) is a system designed to compare the strengths of different hands. In the point-count system:

- an ace (A) = 4 points
- a king (K) = 3 points
- a queen (Q) = 2 points
- a jack (J) = 1 point

There are ten points in each suit, 40 in the whole pack. Using your ever-present pack of cards, sorted into the four suits, make up the following two hands and count how many high-card points they hold:

- Hand 1: ♠ AK64, ♥ QJ82, ♦ Q42, ♣ KJ
- Hand 2: ♠ Q10873, ♥ AK7, ♦ AJS, ♣ Q7

Of course, both are worth 16 points.

The dealer starts by announcing how many points he holds. Then, in a clockwise direction, the other players do likewise. Remember it should add up to 40. If it doesn't, have a recount. Then the two partners, those sitting opposite each other, North and South or East and West, add their point-count totals together. The side with the higher total becomes the *declaring side*, the other side, their *opponents*, become the *defending side*. (If each partnership has 20, redial and start again.) And the member of that partnership with the higher number (or the first to speak if they have the same) becomes *declarer*. Next week we will look at our first example.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

PIWARRIE
a. A drink
b. A male sarong
c. A river canoe

PINTADERA
a. Cut and burn cultivation
b. A seabird
c. Body-painting

SATYAGRAHA
a. Passive resistance
b. A Vedic teacher
c. Sri Lankan curry

RUMPETY
a. An aircraft
b. An apple
c. Nauseous

Answers on page 50

CHANGING TIMES

http://www.the-times.co.uk

SPORT IN BRIEF

Modahl wins right to appeal

ATHLETICS: Diane Modahl has won leave to appeal to the House of Lords in her legal battle with the British Athletic Federation.

The former Commonwealth 800 metres champion has been challenging the effectiveness of sampling procedures at a Lisbon laboratory, where a specimen of her urine tested positive in 1994. She has already cleared her name and won the right to sue the federation for £1 million damages.

Modahl was barred by the Court of Appeal last year from pursuing the federation over her allegations that the laboratory was not accredited by international athletics bodies. She can now challenge that ruling.

TENNIS: Sam Smith, the Great Britain No 1, and Julie Pullin, the No 4, won their first-round matches in the French Open qualifying competition yesterday. Smith beat Virginia Razzano 7-6, 1-6, 6-4 while Pullin trounced Kristina Triska 6-1, 6-2.

Lorna Woodroffe, the Britain No 3, was beaten 6-4, 6-3 by Erika de Lone. Serena Williams will join her elder sister, Venus, at the Direct Line championships at Eastbourne from June 16 to 20 after requesting a wild-card entry.

CYCLING: Sean Yates is to make a surprise comeback to international cycling in the Prutour of Britain, which starts tomorrow. The Briton replaces the injured Scot Gumble in the Linda McCartney Foods team.

Michele Bartoli took over the leader's jersey in the Giro d'Italia after finishing fifth in the fifth stage by his Italian compatriot, Mario Cipollini.

ROWING: Luka Graber will replace Tim Foster in the Britain four at the World Cup regatta in Munich next weekend. Foster injured a hand a fortnight ago.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Match under way

The qualifying match to challenge Garry Kasparov between Alexei Shirov and Vladimir Kramnik consists of ten games scheduled for Cazorle, Spain. With the match now under way I conclude my preview of this exciting encounter with the two final decisive games between the pair, both wins for Shirov.

White: Alexei Shirov
Black: Vladimir Kramnik

Linares 1998

Ruy Lopez

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bb5	Nf6
4	O-O	Nb4
5	d4	Bc5
6	c3	O-O
7	Re1	d5
8	exd5	Bxd6
9	Nxd2	Bf5
10	Nc4	Bd4
11	c3	Qd1
12	Rd1	Bc5
13	Bc3	Nc7
14	Re1	Ba3
15	Nxd3	Nd6
16	Nd5	Nexf5
17	Ba4	Bc6
18	Re2	Rf8
19	Rae1	Rae2
20	Rae2	a5
21	Re5	b4
22	Rc5	bx3
23	Rc3	Nb5
24	Rc4	Rd8
25	Rc4	Rd8
26	Kf1	Nc7
27	g4	Nd6
28	Rc7	Nd5
29	Rc5	Nb4
30	Bb3	Nd3
31	Rae5	Nb2
32	Rd5	Rf8
33	Nd2	Rf8
34	Ke2	Ra6
35	Rd4	Nb7
36	Rd4	Nb7
37	Bd5	Rd7
38	Kd2	Nd6
39	Nc3	Nf5
40	Rf4	Kf8
41	a5	

Black resigns

White: Alexei Shirov
Black: Vladimir Kramnik
Wijk aan Zee 1998

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	d6
6	Bg5	e6
7	Qc2	g6
8	O-O-O	Nf6
9	Be3	Be7
10	R3	Nxd4
11	Bxd4	e5
12	Be3	Be6
13	Kb1	Fc8
14	h4	Qe6
15	a3	b5
16	g4	Rac3
17	Qac3	Qc5
18	exd5	Nxd5
19	Bd2	O-O
20	Qd4	bx4
21	Be4	Bc6+
22	Bc3	Bc3
23	Rf1	h5
24	Rf4	Bc5
25	Rf4	Bc5
26	Rf4	Nc7
27	Kb2	Kf7
28	Bd1	Bd5
29	Rc3	Bc6
30	Rc4	Nd6
31	B2	Bb5
32	Qc5	Nxc5
33	Bxc3	Bxc3
34	cx3	Fc8
35	Kc3	Fc8
36	Kb4	Rc6+
37	Kg4	Kg6
38	Be5	Rd6
39	B2	Kf6
40	Ka5	hx4
41	bg4	g6
42	g5+	Kg7
43	Ka6	Fc8
44	Bc4	f5
45	Kb7	e4
46	d4	f4
47	d5	e3
48	Be1	g3
49	Ke7	Rf8
50	d6	Rf4
51	Bc3+	Kf7
52	Bc3	Black resigns

□ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Held - Schaffer, Stauffer, 1998. The black king is dangerously exposed and the white major pieces are poised for the kill. How did White continue?

Solution on page 50

England players dreading final cu

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FOOTBALL

England players dreading final cut

By Oliver Holt, Football Correspondent

THEY are getting close to the edge now, close to the time when the axe will fall on some and the welcoming hand will beckon others towards the steps to the flight to France. Yesterday, at Bisham Abbey, Phil Neville spoke about the purgatory of waiting, about life in the no-man's land that has become an uncomfortable home for those still uncertain of a place in Glenn Hoddle's final 22-man squad.

Neville has already been measured for the suit the final 22 will sport at the finals, he has been fitted with the training kit they will use day in, day out, he has even selected the set of complimentary golf clubs players will use when they have time for recreation. But he knows that he will never wear the suit, pull on the training tops or swing the clubs if the call from Hoddle does not come.

The consensus is that 14 players, possibly more, have guaranteed themselves places in the World Cup party that will be announced in La Manga, southern Spain, on the first day of next month. The rest face an agonising ten days, trying to prove to the manager in training and then against Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Belgium, that they deserve to go.

"I think everyone is worried about it," Neville said after training yesterday. "You can get injured or you can lose your form. And it can happen in such a short space of time. You have just got to keep focused and stay positive."



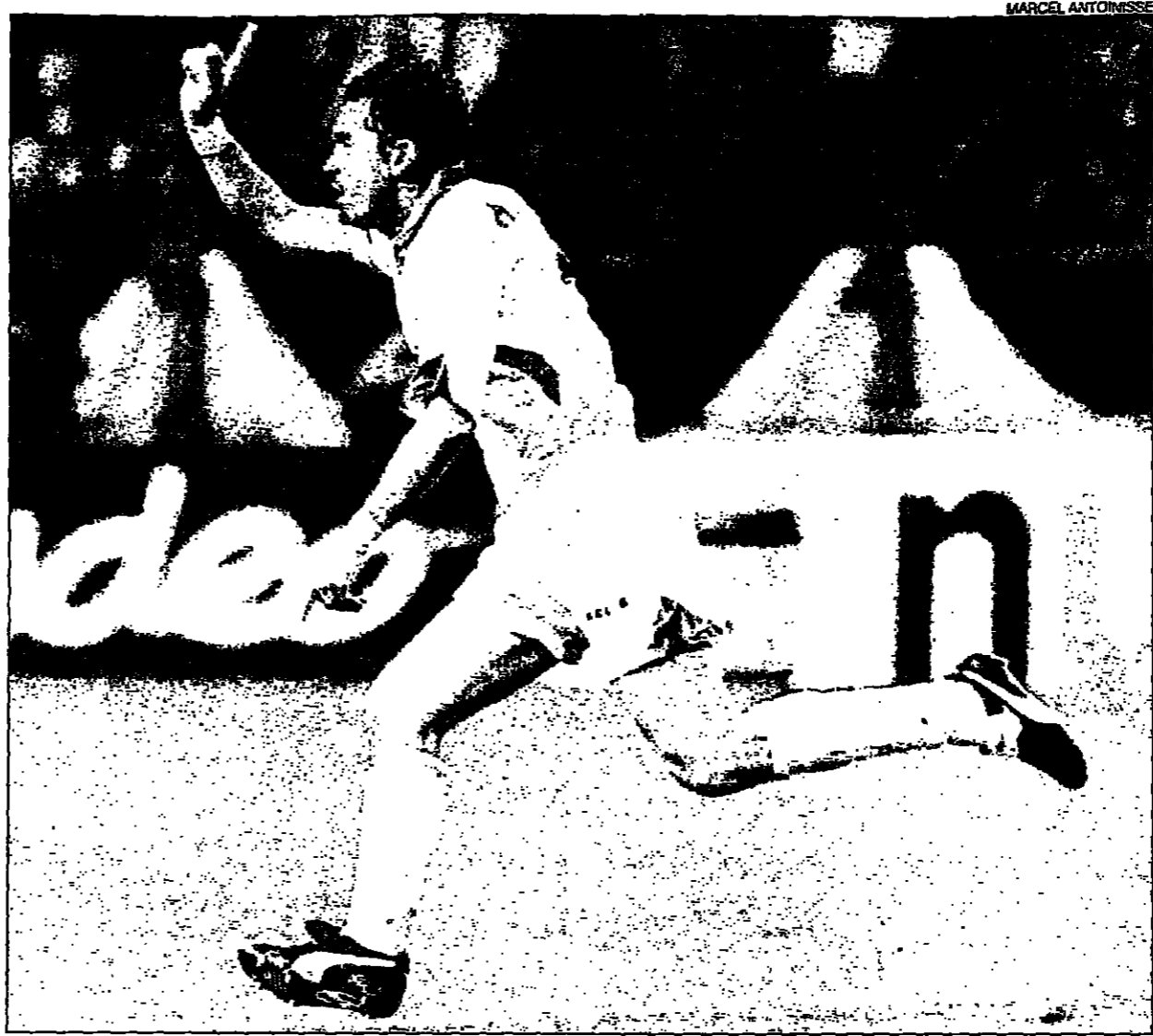
Neville: waiting game

The boss has never said to us that there are 13 or 14 players who are already in but you can see for yourself that there is a spine of the team that will go. I don't think that I am among those who are safe. I have still got something to prove but things have always gone well for me when I have played for England.

I can guarantee you that every one of the 30 has tried to pick the final 22 in his own mind but you never really talk

Mijatovic eases the pain in Spain

Rob Hughes on the personal joy behind Real Madrid's European triumph



Mijatovic celebrates after scoring the goal that brought Real Madrid their first European Cup success for 32 years

THE Amsterdam Arena late on Wednesday night was a picture of what it means to win and to lose the final of the European Cup. To the right, defeated Juventus players shuffled away apologetically, the steep banks of seating already abandoned by 15,000 Juve followers. Does anyone arrive so high on expectation and depart so low on despair as the Italian fan?

Across the arena, nobody wanted to leave. Beneath white balloons drifting down from the roof like snowflakes, the Real Madrid players cavorted like schoolboys, their Ultra Sur fanatics bellowing the joy and relief at reclaiming a trophy that 40 years ago seemed Real Madrid's personal property.

Mijatovic will be defied in Madrid, but the 29-year-old Montenegrin will not want his triumphant moment made the excuse for the frenzy of celebration that turned violent in Holland and Spain in the early hours of Thursday.

He did not move instinctively to score, without really meaning to, he later brought human perspective to the surreal world of the multimillionaire footballer.

His technique in what he called an ordinary penalty-box goal was exceptional. His brain reacted quicker than Mark Juliano, on whose error he preyed, and smarter than Angelo Peruzzi, the goalkeeper.

Arsenal linked with £2.5m bid for Solano

By Our Sports Staff

Chelsea in a £500,000 deal, but Ron Noades, the chairman, is abroad on holiday and Mark Goldberg's takeover is due to be finalised today, leading to Terry Venables' appointment as manager.

Ray Lewington, the first-team coach, said: "It has all been going on for so long, with so many deadlines, that we are all blasé about it now. We are just waiting for the takeover deal to be done so that we can get stuck in. As for Artill, as far as I understand he is still contracted here and people are keen to keep him."

Horacio Carbonari, the Argentine defender, will become a Derby County player today, subject to passing a medical. Jim Smith, the Derby manager, discussed personal terms with Carbonari, 24, yesterday after agreeing a club record fee of £2.5 million with Rosario Central.

Blackburn Rovers have beaten off a host of Premier-ship clubs to sign Jimmy Corbett, the Gillingham forward. Corbett, 17, agreed to join Blackburn after two days of talks at Ewood Park. Blackburn have agreed to pay Gillingham an initial fee of £325,000, which could rise to £1 million.

Joe Royle, the Manchester City manager, yesterday responded to the bitter attack made on him by Georgi Kinkladze, who has joined Ajax, by branding the Georgia international lazy and uncommitted.

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Jack aims to be the master of Wembley

By David Powell

WHEN Rodney Jack visited Britain from St Vincent three years ago on a tour to promote Caribbean players, he so impressed Torquay United that they persuaded him not to leave town so other clubs would not be alerted to his skills. A jack-in-the-box is what Torquay thought they had and so it has proved.

Jack has finished top scorer in each of his two full seasons at Plainmoor, sending the club's supporters into raptures in the second leg of the Nationwide League third division play-off semi-final last week. Two exquisite goals in the first seven minutes killed off Scarborough.

Each goal was a combination of bewitching run and deadly strike. Jack has to this season but, as he enters the play-off final against Colchester United at Wembley this evening, he is not at ease.

"Sometimes I find it very stressful, because the fans are always looking for magic moments from me," Jack said. "The coaching staff have told me not to go to Wembley thinking I have got to do it all."

Torquay supporters may be wondering if today will be the last time they see him in their yellow and blue. Crewe Alexandra, turned down by Jack earlier this season, are said to be ready to double their initial offer to £750,000.

PRUDENTIAL DAY TO GO... Prutour S The UK's Premier Cycle Race. Prutour is going to be the biggest cycle race in the UK and one of the world's top 5 races.

CRICKET

Tottering innings shored up by Powell

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

EDGBASTON (first day of four: Nottinghamshire won toss; Nottinghamshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 59 runs behind Warwickshire)

AFTER a parched month in the desert, Nottinghamshire finally found water yesterday and drank their fill. They exploited a useful toss, dismissing Warwickshire for 130 on a sporting pitch in helpfully overcast conditions that made bowling a delight for swingers. Although Warwickshire hit back twice in the final session through Brown, the opportunity to shape the game resides with their opponents.

Warwickshire's wickets were shared by Franks, Oram and Bowen, who took four in a 16-over spell from the Pavilion End either side of lunch. The most memorable, from his point of view, was that of Lara.

Bowen: four-wicket burst

who offered a slip catch almost as soon as he came in. In the testing conditions of the morning Warwickshire needed a more steadfast response from their captain. One must enter a caveat immediately. The bowling, while competent, was never truly inspired. Much of the batting was wretched, and the absence of Knight, Moles and Penney offers only a partial excuse. Warwickshire teams of the recent past have shown far more gumption than this, even when the side has been stripped to the bone. If the cricket was moderate the noise was absolutely first-class. Nottinghamshire clearly feel that, if they can't outplay other sides in the field, they can match them syllable for syllable in a shouting match. Gie, at short leg, and Abzaal, in the gully, maintained an extraordinary dia-

logue that could probably be heard on Wenlock Edge. There was nothing, quite, to compare with Paul Downton's exhortation to his Middlesex team-mates a few years ago, "feel it, want it", (to which one player responded, "I certainly can't feel it and I don't particularly want it"), but Mr Abzaal should bear in mind that his strident voice is not the loveliest and that to bellow repeatedly, "keep going, boys", in the first hour of the innings merely makes him sound ridiculous. Warwickshire's humble score would have looked a good deal thinner but for Michael Powell, who carried his bat for 70. He is making his first championship appearance for two years as a replacement for Moles, who was in fact the last Warwickshire player to bat through the innings, ten years ago, against Kent.

Powell is one of two young batsmen with the same surname and the same initials. He is Michael James Powell, as opposed to Michael John Powell, of Glamorgan, who made a double hundred on his debut last summer, against the students at Oxford. Until Giddins joined him, for an improbably long last wicket partnership that brought 29 runs, as many as any stand hitherto, Powell defended stoutly. Then, with the sand running out, he gave the ball a bash.

Franks, who did the hat-trick against Warwickshire last year, becoming the youngest Nottinghamshire player to do so, might have pulled it off again. Strang gave him the first wicket when he caught Frost superbly at second slip, and Hemp went first ball, leg-before. Now that Franks is fit again, he can have the long run in the side he needs to grow up. He is still only 19, and promises much. Despite losing an hour in the morning to bad light, Nottinghamshire had done all the bowling they needed to do by tea. When they went in to bat Brown castled Robinson, and had Abzaal taken at third slip an over after Lara had shelled one by his boots off the same batsman. Johnson, playing with commendable freedom, saw the day through with Downman until the light reverted to gloom.

Graveney calls Chrises meeting

Simon Wilde on why the chairman of selectors will not bin sinners

If David Graveney was to lose all his many jobs in English cricket — an unlikely event, is it true — and seek another vocation, he might like to consider what sounds a radical option, taking to the cloth. This is not really radical at all. His tenure as chairman of England's selectors suggests he would be perfect for the job. Have you sinned, or been sinned against? Then the Rev David Graveney would be interested to hear your case and lend a sympathetic ear. This is the man, remember, who said, on taking over as chairman from Raymond Illingworth, "everyone starts with a clean slate". The past, he indicated, was to stay firmly in the pavilion.

Graveney was immediately as good as his word. Devon Malcolm, who had appeared to shoot his international career in the foot with criticisms of Illingworth's management skills in South Africa more than a year earlier, was recalled for the first Test match of Graveney's reign, against Australia at Edgbaston.

Mark Ramprakash, who might have also claimed insensitive handling by Illingworth, was another to be given a recall during the Australia series, as was Phil Tufnell, about whom stories of bad-boy behaviour were legion. When he was chosen to play at the Oval nine months ago, Tufnell had not appeared in a home Test match for three years.

Feeling hard-done-by? Ready to repent misdemeanours? Worry no more, my boy. We can heal the hurt. We know Ily could be bloodminded; he was a Yorkshireman, after all. We know the path of youth is strewn with distractions. Here you are, Tuffers, let me give you a light.



Adams departs after his first innings for England was ended by Kallis and Boucher

At the Oval yesterday, two more souls were saved — the Chrises, Lewis and Adams. Lewis had not appeared for England since the Test on the same ground two years ago, for which he infamously arrived late, bearing excuses about flat tyres and mobile

phones. Adams, as he did not tire of saying, had never played for England before. After years of expressing his frustrations at one county, he had left for another.

Some of these selections were undeniably sound, but the inspiration for all them is open to question. Is Graveney, an accountant by training, trying to balance the books of justice? If the answer is yes, is he doing so consciously or unconsciously? Graveney's longstanding role at the heart of the Professional Cricketers' Asso-

ciation makes the latter a possibility, because he would have taken a close interest in the disciplinary shenanigans of Malcolm and Tufnell and the legal niceties of Adams's struggle to leave Derbyshire. Cynics might suggest that the many-hatted Graveney has attended so many meetings that the impressions of one simply merged into another. The name of Derbyshire's complainant surfaces in front of the registration committee and bobs up again — who knows why? — before the selectors. In case this theory is true, it may pay marginal England players to court controversy.

Graveney's selectorial and shop steward roles briefly merged yesterday, when, during pre-match calisthenics, he delivered a sermon to Adams, which was believed to be about the need for him to restrain himself from continuing a public slanging match with former Derbyshire colleagues. In a morning newspaper, the latest round had seen one of them accuse Adams of cherry-picking pitches and "cry-babbling".

Adams missed an opportunity to refute the charge of hat-track bullying when he found himself batting in conditions in which the ball moved around. He could barely lay a bat on it. Like most of his team-mates, he was also like a cat on a hot roof when confronted by South Africa's pretentious fielders. Lewis had still not grasped how good they were when he later became the third man run out. He did little to alter the opinions of him formed years ago.

It may be admirable that Graveney wants to spread the gospel that English cricket no longer bears grudges, but his efforts only appear to reinforce the impression that it has fallen well out of step with reality, for every child is told about the fickleness of the human condition. What- ever, English cricket may still not be much good, but at least it is fair.

Cork puts a halt to Sussex stroll

By RUPERT COK

HORSHAM (first day of four: Sussex won toss; Sussex have scored 315 for nine wickets against Derbyshire)

IT WAS as well for all concerned that Chris Adams was some 40 miles north of Cricket Field Road making his international debut at the Oval. Having long been billed as a grudge match, with Adams scheduled to encounter his former county, whom he left in controversial circumstances, the protracted wrangling has shown no sign of abating.

A national newspaper yesterday carried more revelations on the saga, as Kim Barnett, Adams's former captain, had his say. Surely the time has come to put the issue to rest, particularly as Adams is expected to play in the Axa League fixture on Monday.

Dave Gilbert, the Sussex director of cricket, defended Adams, the new county captain. "I find it very sad that on the morning of his England debut, he should have this under his nose at the breakfast table," he said.

With some irony, Adams's replacement, Mark Newell, marked his first championship match of the season with a composed, career-best unbeaten 129 in 261 balls to quell Sussex's jitters. He displayed a sound temperament, reaching his second first-class century with his sixteenth boundary.

On a sultry morning, and given a pitch likely to offer more assistance to the spinners as the match progresses, Michael Bevan had no hesitation in electing to bat. Aided by a surfeit of runs to the vacant third man boundary, the Sussex innings unfolded with only the occasional ball keeping low to unsettle them. In the tenth over, they lost Toby Petre as he drove indeterminately at Phillip DeFreitas. With Wasim Khan and Mark Newell calmly making use of the fast outfield, the home team lunched comfortably at 124 for one. However, Dominic Cork, swapping ends to facilitate his outswinger, bowled an aggressive spell to restore parity. Khan, after reaching his highest score for Sussex, drove Dean to extra cover and, after one exquisite cover drive, Bevan succumbed to late swing as he played round his front pad.

Cork, bombarding Keith Newell with bouncers, eventually gained his reward as the batsman fenced to the gully, and two balls later Shaun Humphries, beaten for pace, had his stumps redesigned. Bowling with more of his old penetration, Cork collected four for 69 as only the assured batting of the younger Newell thwarted the Derbyshire captain.

White's best eight make an odd day even

By JACK BAILEY

GLOUCESTER (first day of four: Gloucestershire won toss; Yorkshire, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 313 runs behind Gloucestershire)

IT WAS an odd sort of day, full of drama and changes of fortune. Only cricket can provide the sort of perversity that saw Gloucestershire start like a runaway train, driven by Gregor Macmillan's 53 from 39 balls, reach 146 for one while coasting, then come off the rails as Craig White, in two spells, captured seven for 32. White's haul included a hat-trick and a spell of five in one in top balls and he ended with a career-best eight for 55.

At this stage, eight Gloucestershire wickets had fallen for 199. Another twist was in store, however. For Jack Russell, portraying all his terrier-like qualities, proceeded to take on all-comers, fighting side by side with Mike Smith in a ninth-wicket partnership of 114 from 21 overs. Russell took advantage of being missed at long leg off White when he had made 12, reaching 50 from 76 balls. Smith, chances before giving White his eighth wicket, was first to the half century. He needed only 54 balls and hit 12 fours.

Setting down after all the excitement, including the loss of a late Yorkshire wicket, made you appreciate the bowling of White. Archdeacon Meadow was made for batsmen, yet White generated pace through the air and off the pitch. He has a proper action: left arm high, side on, and he bends his back. As the wickets fell, he seemed to get faster and faster. The Gloucestershire middle batting was swept away, all but two of his eight wickets captured without assistance from the field. White's hat-trick — Alleyne, Ball and Lewis were the batsmen — was all his own work and made you wonder whether England

have a more explosive all-round cricketer at their disposal. One who will concur is Macmillan. Playing his maiden first-class innings for Gloucestershire, Macmillan, formerly of Oxford University and Leicestershire, laid bat on ball to no mean effect, while Hutchinson and Hoggard were in charge of the new ball for Yorkshire. It was not new for long, as Macmillan hoisted two sixes and hit nine fours in an all-out assault. Yet Macmillan succumbed to White's second ball, edged to Blakey, beginning a trail of destruction by White halted only by Hancock and Wright, in a partnership of 71, and later by Russell and Smith.

James gets back into stride

By JOHN STERN

NORTHAMPTON (first day of four: Glamorgan won toss; Glamorgan, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 32 runs ahead of Northamptonshire)

IT IS easy to imagine the frustration that Kevin Curran, the Northamptonshire captain and a fierce competitor, must have felt when he lost the toss to Tony Cottee yesterday. After a glorious week of weather in Northampton, the sky was grey, the pitch greenish and Waqar Younis was playing his first championship match of the season.

In fact, but for a partnership between Curran and Ripley, Northamptonshire's plight would have been even worse than it is. The pitch did not turn out to be the problem for Northamptonshire, it was the consistent and, at times, prodigious swing produced by all five of the Glamorgan seam bowlers that proved too much for their top order.

Northamptonshire's innings was half over by the end of the first hour. Two wickets apiece for Waqar and Darren Thomas and one for Watkin left them 45 for five. Only Sales was truly culpable for his dismissal. After being in for 11 balls without scoring and having helped to see off

James, after losing his partner, Alun Evans, in the seventh over, progressed in regulation fashion to 79, playing forcefully of his legs and square of the wicket. Then, in the 34th over, from Rose, he went on to the attack — glancing, cutting over the slips and hooking five boundaries to take himself to within a single of his century, which duly arrived in Rose's next over with a punishing cut, his 19th boundary. Helped by that extraordinary flurry, James's second fifty took only 34 balls.

Dale was heading for a comfortable half-century himself but became Malcolm's second victim when his middle and leg stumps were removed, ending a second-wicket partnership of 144.

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Umpires get wider powers from ICC

ONE of the most insidious practices in modern cricket has effectively been outlawed with a decision by the International Cricket Council (ICC) empowering umpires to penalise negative leg-side bowling with a call of wide (Alan Lee writes).

Until now, umpires have technically been unable to intervene as the laws of the game state that a ball must "pass out of the reach of the striker standing in a normal guard position" to be judged as wide. Yesterday, however, the cricket committee of the ICC agreed to impose a new playing condition applying a stricter interpretation.

This welcome legislation, the latest example of flexed muscles from the ICC, follows several days of meetings at Lord's, the first of which was a gathering of national captains. Although their input to this decision is unclear, they must surely approve of any attempt to alienate a wretchedly unattractive tactic.

The calling of wides in such circumstances is, by definition, subjective. Shane Warne, for instance, frequently bowls round the wicket and pitches into the leg-side rough, yet he turns the ball so lavishly

that he could not possibly be thought negative.

By contrast, successive England left-arm spinners, Richard Illingworth and Philip Tufnell, have made a tedious habit of adopting a leg-side line simply to stop the opposition scoring. Seam bowlers are guilty less often, but in South Africa two winters ago, Dominic Cork was bowling such a blatantly negative line that the umpire, Cyril Mitchley, unilaterally ignored the laws and called wide.

Sir Clyde Walcott, who chairs the cricket committee, said that his group "were also very concerned about the amount of excessive appealing now in international cricket, the number of times that drinks are brought onto the field and the number of players being allowed to leave the field with too many substitutes brought on". All these issues were debated with the captains and will be raised again in July.

The abandonment of a one-day international at Indore and the January Test match in Kingston have also been considered. Both venues must be inspected by the ICC before being cleared to stage future international games.

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TODAY'S FIXTURES

CRICKET	EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire	RUGBY LEAGUE
Britishic Assurance county championship 11.0, second day of four 104 overs minimum	SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Final day of three: Abingdon School: Derbyshire v Essex; Southampton: Hampshire v Glamorgan; Trent Bridge: Nottingham v Warwickshire; Hove: Sussex v Worcestershire; Bingley: Yorkshire v Gloucestershire	JJB Super League Castleford v Bradford (7.45) Wigan v Huddersfield (7.30)
CANTERBURY: Kent v Durham	FOOTBALL	OTHER SPORT
LEICESTER: Leicestershire v Hampshire	Nationwide League Third division play-off final Torquay v Colchester (at Wembley, 7.30)	EQUESTRIANISM: Windsor three-day event
UNBRIDGE: Middlesex v Worcestershire	NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Glamorgan	GOLF: PGA championship (at Wentworth)
TAUNTON: Somerset v Surrey	HORSHAM: Sussex v Derbyshire	SPEEDWAY: Elite League: Belle Vue v Coventry (7.30); Oxford v Poole (7.45) Premier League: Edinburgh v Isle of Wight (7.30) Premier League Cup: Arena Essex v Essex (6.0) Honda Challenge: Peterborough v Hull (7.45)

Hick moving closer to joining the 100 club

THE TIMES

مكتبة من الأمل

CRICKET

Hick moves closer to joining the 100 club

UXBRIDGE (first day of four: Worcestershire won toss): Worcestershire have scored 435 for four wickets against Middlesex

IT WAS almost inevitable that Graeme Hick would make a hundred yesterday. Discarded yet again by the selectors for the Texaco Trophy series, the most enigmatic batsman of his generation went in at about the same time as England were faltering against South Africa to score the 98th century of his career.

Two more and he will become only the 24th player to make a hundred hundreds, reaching the milestone, all being well, in fewer first-class innings than anyone apart from Sir Donald Bradman and Denis Compton. And still we wonder how a batsman capable of such deeds has still to establish himself as an international cricketer.

In the West Indies not so long ago, he sometimes looked like a little boy lost in the one-day internationals, scoring only 97 runs in five innings. Yesterday he played like a man against boys, hitting 166 off 222 balls in a little over four and three-quarter hours, including a six and 19 fours.

The answer to the conundrum must lie in his temperament or his technique or, more likely, both. A sparsely populated club ground at Uxbridge is nothing like a teeming Oval during an international match. A Middlesex attack spearheaded by Johnson and Hewitt and including Blanchett, making his first-class debut, is nothing like as demanding as Donald, Pollock and the rest.

All that said, it is difficult to imagine any other England batsman playing as imperiously as Hick did here with one of those selectors, Mike Gatting, standing in the slips wishing he could make it look so easy as he pursues his fading dream of completing a century of centuries.

It is called to mind the words of John Bracewell, the former New Zealand off-spinner and now Gloucestershire coach, who once described Hick as "a flat track bully", although to

dismiss this innings in those terms would be doing it less than justice.

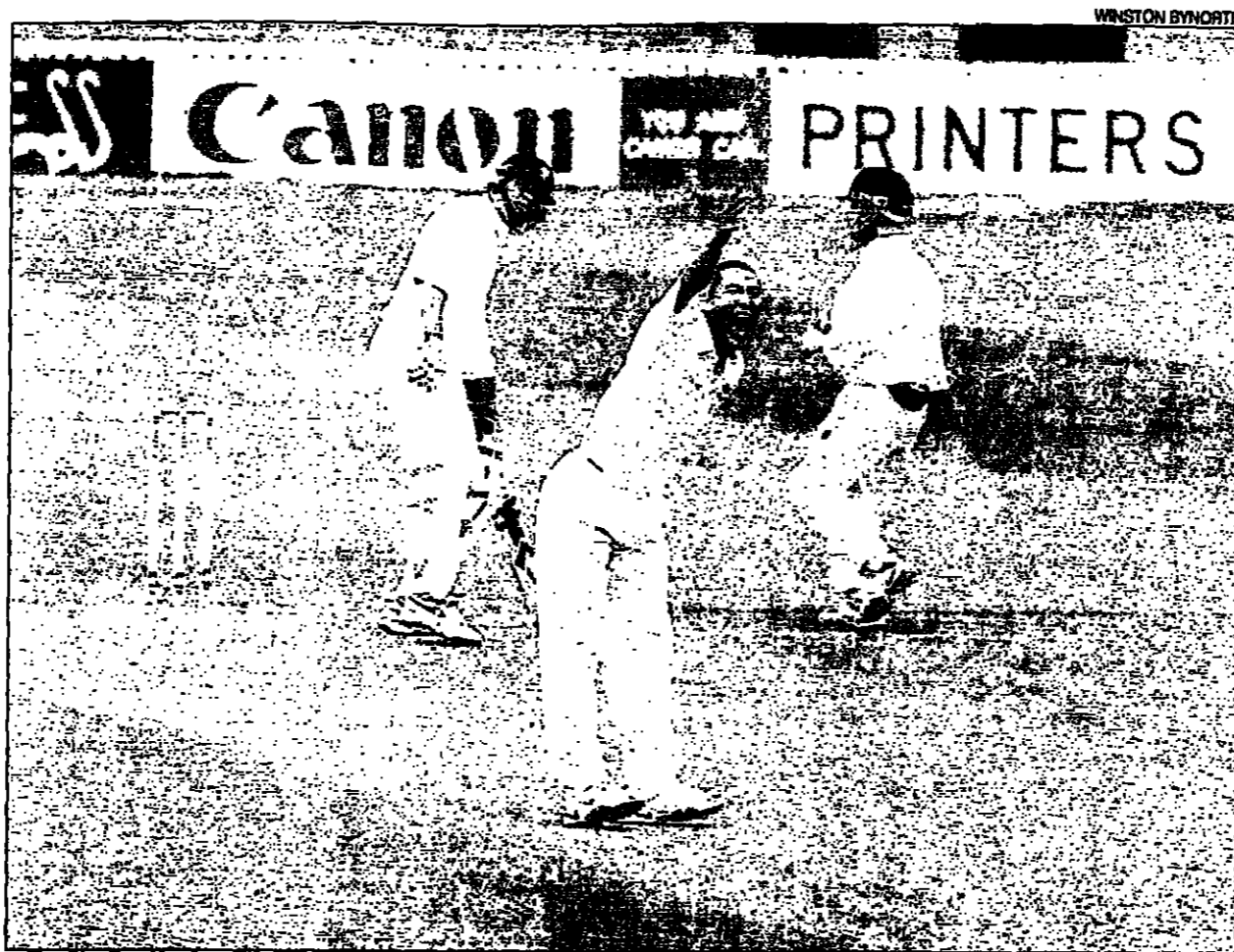
The track was flat all right, but Hick gave the Middlesex bowling due respect when he went in after Hewitt had hit Weston's leg stump. Indeed he played and missed at his first delivery and drove the second only just short of cover where Blanchett picked the ball up and almost ran him out at the bowler's end.

After that, though, he never looked like getting out as he moved to his hundred off 146 balls, including a six, pulled sweetly over mid-wicket off Johnson, and 13 fours. He was within two runs of the 168 he made against Middlesex on the same ground in 1992 when he cut Blanchett fiercely to backward point.

The wristy Solanki had helped him put on 133 in 32 overs for the second wicket, making 78, including 13 fours, before he too was bowled by Hewitt, but that was nothing compared with the Middlesex suffering when Moody joined Hick in a fourth-wicket partnership of 222 in only 45 overs.

Haynes had gone for a duck, leg before to Tufnell, who was having his first decent bowl after being left out of the one-day games and wishing he had a friendlier surface to do it on, but Moody is not the kind of man who passes up an opportunity like this, and he was soon out-doing even Hick in his power of stroke.

In the final match of last season, these two put on 438 against Hampshire at Southampton in 1982. Blanchett, 22, banished that prospect with the wicket of Hick, and he might have had Moody as well when he mistimed a pull and was dropped by Kettleborough at mid-wicket. By then, however, Moody had already completed his own century.



Ben Hollis roars out a leg-before appeal against Rose at Taunton, where 17 wickets fell on the opening day

Bulbeck makes exciting debut

TAUNTON (first day of four: Surrey won toss): Surrey, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 20 runs behind Somerset

AFTER winning the toss on a greentop and duly deciding to field, Surrey seemed to have Somerset cornered when the 22nd over, they had reduced them to 65 for seven. Somerset fought back so strongly, though, that at the end of the day there was not much between two sides both well below full strength.

Martin Bicknell had most to do with the Somerset collapse. In a ten-over spell which lasted for 80 minutes, he took three for 14, bowling an immaculate line and gaining consistent movement away from

the right-handers. Andrew Caddick was the first Somerset player to reach double figures but such was Surrey's loss of control when Bicknell rested, that Graham Rose, Matthew Bulbeck and Andre van Troost swiftly followed Caddick's example and the last three wickets produced 101 in 16 overs.

Somerset's biggest bonus was Bulbeck's unbeaten 27. An 18-year-old from Taunton School, playing his first game in the first team, he opened his account with a copybook on-drive for four and added 47 in seven overs with van Troost for the last wicket.

Although there was still movement for the seamers, conditions were easier when Surrey started their reply. Butcher, acutely aware of the absence of the cream of his team's batting at the Oval, made occupation of the crease his priority.

Some 75 minutes after the departure of Ratcliffe, his opening partner, though, Trescothick bowled Ward and had Shahid leg-before in successive overs, before Bulbeck, in his primary role as a left-arm seamer, hit the top of Butcher's off stump with his second ball in first-class cricket.

It was near enough the perfect delivery, pitching middle and swinging past the outside edge. A diving catch by Turner brought the young man his second wicket.

Fortunes starting to turn for Patel

CANTERBURY (first day of four: Kent won toss): Kent, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 112 runs behind Durham

AFTER two years of frustration and injury, Min Patel, the Kent left-arm spin bowler, took another step along the road to recovery yesterday as he bagged his first five-wicket haul of the season (Barney Spender writes).

Exploiting a turning pitch and indifferent Durham batting, Patel took five for 73 to put Kent into a strong position, which was reinforced by their opening pair of Rob Key and David Fulton. They calmly added an unbroken 117 with the 19-year-old Key, who hit

54 against the South Africans in a one-day game on Tuesday, completing his maiden first-class half-century just before the close.

Two years ago, Patel's euphoria at playing for England against India ended in disappointment when he was dropped after taking only one wicket in two Tests. Things became even worse last year when, after a single championship match, a second knee operation in four years meant he missed the remainder of the season.

Here, he looked a touch rusty at times but, in tandem with Carl Hooper, found enough turn and bounce to strike panic into the Durham batting and consequently re-

duce them from 77 for one to 127 for nine. The visitors, however, did find some salvation in the last-wicket pair of Michael Foster, who hit a century 76 not out, and Stephen Harrison, whose 36 was a career-best. They thrashed 102 in 67 minutes, falling one short of Durham's tenth-wicket record, which was set by Melvyn Betts and David Cox two years ago.

Britannic Assurance county championship

Essex v Lancashire

CHELMSFORD (first day of four: Lancashire won toss): Lancashire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 206 runs behind Essex

Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Runs/Wickets. Includes players like D.D.J. Robinson, R.C. Innes, S.D. Peters, etc.

Lancashire v Yorkshire

GLoucester (first day of four: Gloucestershire won toss): Yorkshire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 313 runs behind Gloucestershire

Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Runs/Wickets. Includes players like G.I. Meenan, M.C. Wright, etc.

Gloucestershire v Yorkshire

GLoucester (first day of four: Gloucestershire won toss): Yorkshire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 313 runs behind Gloucestershire

Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Runs/Wickets. Includes players like G.I. Meenan, M.C. Wright, etc.

Worcestershire v Middlesex

UXBRIDGE (first day of four: Worcestershire won toss): Worcestershire have scored 435 for four wickets against Middlesex

Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Runs/Wickets. Includes players like W.P.C. Weston, G.R. Haynes, etc.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

DURHAM: First Innings

Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Runs/Wickets. Includes players like J.J. B. Lewis, J.E. Morris, etc.

Leicestershire v Hampshire

LEICESTER (first day of four: Hampshire won toss): Hampshire have scored 276 for six wickets against Leicestershire

Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Runs/Wickets. Includes players like G.W. White, J.S. Searcy, etc.

Middlesex v Worcestershire

UXBRIDGE (first day of four: Worcestershire won toss): Worcestershire have scored 435 for four wickets against Middlesex

Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Runs/Wickets. Includes players like W.P.C. Weston, G.R. Haynes, etc.

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Northamptonshire v Glamorgan

NORTHAMPTON (first day of four: Glamorgan won toss): Glamorgan, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 32 runs ahead of Northamptonshire

Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Runs/Wickets. Includes players like J.J. B. Lewis, J.E. Morris, etc.

Sussex v Derbyshire

HORSHAM (first day of four: Sussex won toss): Sussex, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 196 runs ahead of Derbyshire

Table with 2 columns: Player Name and Runs/Wickets. Includes players like M.T.E. Peirce, J.R. Carpenter, etc.

Warwickshire v Nottinghamshire

EDGBASTON (first day of four: Nottinghamshire won toss): Nottinghamshire, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 59 runs ahead of Warwickshire

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Aymes enjoys the new order

BY RICHARD HOBSON

LEICESTER (first day of four: Hampshire won toss): Hampshire have scored 276 for six wickets against Leicestershire

ADRIAN AYMES responded to his promotion up the batting order by recording only his second championship hundred in 12 seasons. Moreover, he did so with a combination of responsibility and style to suggest that further big scores lie ahead.

Against a Leicestershire attack missing three first-choice seam bowlers — Lewis to England, Ormond to injury and Millns to an ear infection — the probability was always that at least one Hampshire batsman would fill his boots, and when Simmons needed treatment for a side strain after seven overs, the circumstances become even more propitious.

That Hampshire flustered and fumbled initially said something about the fallibility of the top order. The openers, Lane and White, have now mustered 57 runs in eight innings between them. But it also highlighted the efforts of Mullyaly, who conceded 24 runs in 19 overs in his initial three spells in helping to restrict Hampshire to 85 for four. Aymes entered at No 5 after Simmons, fielding despite his injury, dived to his right at second slip to account for Keech. He then saw Robin Smith offer a more straightforward catch to Simmons before adding 114 in 46 overs with Mascarenhas.

In response to a testing situation it was sensible rather than attractive batting. Aymes gave a full flourish of the bat to anything over-pitched outside off stump. Otherwise, he resisted all temptation. Hampshire were just a run away from their first batting bonus point of the season when Mascarenhas ticked an away-swing from Williamson.

Aymes nearly cut Williamson onto his stumps on 88, but went on to reach his century in 222 minutes with 14 fours.

Chapple keeps Essex in check

BY IVO TENNANT

CHELMSFORD (first day of four: Lancashire won toss): Lancashire, with all first-innings wickets in hand, are 206 runs behind Essex

FOR a young bowler who was reckoned a couple of years ago to be an England cricketer in the making, Glen Chapple has been unable to justify such regard from his peers. A susceptibility to injury has hardly helped. Yesterday, against an Essex side that, admittedly, was without five regular first-team players, he took five for 49 at a lively medium pace, figures that were sufficient to give Lancashire command of this match.

In addition to his five wickets, his best figures for two years, Chapple held three catches and looked altogether more sprightly than he has for a long while. In his first over, he had Flanagan, the bespectacled 17-year-old leg-before and Peters, both in flight at second slip, both for aught at the end of the first over. When he returned for a second spell, Chapple immediately had Robinson leg-before playing half-forward. Later, he bowled Irani and swung one away from Rollins that was edged to Hegg. Essex never exactly looked as if they would achieve a sizeable total, but the bowling was sufficiently mean to ensure that they did not. That, together with the fact that Stuart Law got himself out.

His was a sumptuous innings. Captaining Essex for the first time in a championship match, Law came in with the total on nought for two and drove off front and back foot alike with a sureness of touch. He had just driven Flintoff through the covers for his seventh four when he tried something expansive and was taken at second slip.

The only other batsman to come up with a decent score was Hibbert, a heavy scorer in the second XI, who was making his championship debut. It was one he could justly remember.

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SAILING

Final leg provides peril for Krantz

By EDWARD GORMAN SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THE Whitbread Round the World Race enters its final phase today, when the nine crews set off on a ground-breaking final leg from La Rochelle to Southampton...

At between 450 and 490 nautical miles, it will be a testing finale for the five yachts fighting it out for second and third places overall...

Their problem is that there will be little time to recover from early ill-luck or mistakes and strong tidal conditions could play a big role if the breeze remains light...

The slippers and navigators will not know until the ten-minute gun today whether a starboard rounding of the Wolf Rock will be included in the course...

With overall points up-pest in skippers' minds, there could be some odd moves near the end, as Kosteki hinted at yesterday...

Swedish Match deserves to hold on for second. She has had two doses of cruch luck — on the first night of the first leg, when one tactical decision condemned her to eighth...

South African leads Wentworth challengers



Els eyes up a putt on the 17th green during practice yesterday. Photograph: Tim Matthews/Allsport

Troubled Els can drive away with Volvo title

By MEL WEBB

THE Volvo PGA championship is one of those sporting occasions that transcend mere sport. It is golf's Glynedourne, its Cheltenham Festival, its Wimbledon, its Henley...

Off the course, the Moët et Chandon will flow in torrents, the smoked salmon will be consumed by the hundred-weight and the female of the species will wear shoes with unsuitable heels...

Ballesteros, Langer, Olazábal, Woosnam and Faldo are all there at least once. All, except Faldo, are back again for another tilt at the West Course, and so are two men who are surprisingly absent from the list...

leaves Els, the leader. Woods and Love to be overhauled. "I have to start winning this type of tournament to get into that sort of position, and I'll probably have to beat Ernie to achieve it," he said.

Wentworth on Spring Bank Holiday weekend is the place to see and be seen but there are, too, more meaningful items on the agenda. The place may be en fête, but beneath the surface, deals are done, promises made, undertakings of the multimillion-pound variety given...

That single, unadorned fact will turn legs, minds and viscera to jelly; with its £12 million purse, this is the nearest Europe gets to staging a second major championship. Of the Ryder Cup team last year, ten are present — only Jesper Parnevik and Nick Faldo, ploughing their furrows in the United States — have stayed away.

A reliable method of determining the calibre of a golf tournament is to take a look at who has won it, and this event is a classic of its kind. All of the great and the good of European golf have prevailed in the 15 years that this tournament has been held at Wentworth —

In the meantime, there is another task, on the golf course, to be performed in the next few days. Let nobody be in the least surprised if he achieves his target and beats the lot of them, Montgomerie and all.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 46

- PIWARRIE (a) An intoxicating beverage prepared from cassava, used by natives of tropical America, Caribbean from Guiana. The more usual spelling is now piwari. RUMPETY (a) Airman's slang for the Farman training aeroplane, used especially during the war of 1914-18. Also rumpy. Onomatopoeic with echoes of rump bottom and bumpy. PINTADERA (c) An instrument for painting patterns on the body. Archaeological Spanish. "Painting of the person is indicated both by the figurines, ornamented in Cucuteni style, and the occurrence of clay stamps or pintaderas, sometimes bearing traces of red colour." SATYAGRAHA (a) The Indian form of passive resistance as formulated by M. K. Gandhi. In Sanskrit satya means truth and ahimsa means non-violence. "For him (ie. Mahatma Gandhi), the world desperately needs a moral force which will work for justice. He finds this in satyagraha, the soul-force, more positive than non-violence or passive resistance, an active weapon for good in its perennial fight against evil."

EQUESTRIANISM

Boon's style sways judges

By JENNY MACARTHUR

TERRY BOON, the 1993 Young Rider European champion, took the overnight lead on his new ride, Blue Admiral, after a stylish test in the first day of dressage in the Chubb Insurance section at the Windsor International Horse Trials.

Boon, who took over the ride from Jill Anderson, Blue Admiral's owner, at the beginning of the year, earned high marks from all three judges and is just under four points ahead of Richard Waygood, the equitation warrant officer for the Household Cavalry, on Crackerjack III. However, Boon, 24, the son

of the huntsman of the Lamerton Foxhounds in Devon, had some sharp criticism of Giles Rowse's course for the cross-country phase tomorrow. "It's dropped in standard," he said. "You expect the course at Windsor to be substantial but there aren't enough questions. It's long and there's a lot of galloping to jump just a single fence at the end of it."

His criticism was echoed by Lucinda Fredericks, the winner last year, who is in joint-fifth place on Dalliance. "It's much longer than usual and

there's a lot of galloping," she said. "The ground is very firm and the roads and tracks are like concrete." Polly Clark, a member, with Boon, of the gold medal-winning team at the 1994 Young Rider European championships, has a sander lead on The Tonka Toy in the masterpiece section from Natasha Wellesley, a granddaughter of the Duke of Wellington, on Wexsex Lad.

RESULTS: Chubb Insurance section (after first day of dressage) 1. Blue Admiral (T Boon, GB) 37.2. 2. Crackerjack III (R Waygood, GB) 41.0. 3. Barb's Star (C Sear, GB) 48.0. Masterpiece Section: The Tonka Toy (P Clark, GB) 50.2. 2. Wexsex Lad (N Wellesley, GB) 51.4. 3. Fun The Park (G Bate, GB) 56.6

TELEVISION CHOICE

The elements of gardening

Wild About the Garden Channel 4, 8.00pm

Carol Klein concludes her programmes on back-to-nature gardening by looking at the plants that can grow in the harshest conditions. She begins in the Scottish Highlands, moves on to Exmoor in the South West and with the help of local experts gives us the rundown on what can thrive where the soil is poor and the climate unforgiving. The surprise, perhaps, is not how little but how much. In between Klein swaps wilderness for domesticity by visiting a rock garden in West Wales and suggesting to the residents of a London high rise flat how they can brighten up balconies exposed to the elements. And so ends a well-structured and illuminating series that has often been a feast for the eye and will have provided an abundance of ideas even for those who do not go along with Klein's organic message.



Alexei Sayle rants on (9.30pm)

When Good Times Go to Bad ITV, 9.00pm

This American-made anthology of enjoyable days out that turn into near-catastrophes is a like our own 999 in that we can be horrified by what we see while being reassured that nobody gets seriously hurt. But there are many more incidents than in the British show, all were captured by cameras as they happened and nobody pretends that they are being presented as lessons in first aid. Among the many getting caught in her own line, skydivers becoming tangled in their parachutes, a racehorse bolting off the track towards a baby in a pram (this happened in Nottinghamshire) and a boating trip that turns into a fight for life. Sometimes the footage is given a human dimension through interviews with survivors but the incidents usually follow each other so breathlessly that the effect is simply numbing.

Alexei Sayle's Merry-Go-Round BBC2, 9.30pm

Younger viewers may find it hard to believe that Alexei Sayle was once regarded as the wild man of British comedy. Now he is almost cuddly, which means one of two things. Either Sayle has mellowed with age, or what was once considered

outrageous is now part of the acceptable comedy mainstream. The language is still uninhibited, but no more so than in most shows transmitted after the watershed. Sayle's opening rant against golf courses for ruining the environment is about as abrasive as tonight's show gets. More typical is the suggestion (fortunately topical) that the solution to Orange marches in Northern Ireland is to turn the marchers into Ken Dodd's Diddymen. Sayle's ruminations on the human condition, delivered as usual on the trot, continue to be perceptive and are seldom predictable.

TV Official Channel 4, 11.00pm

Shamelessly bring the hand that feeds him, the television critic Victor Lewis-Smith scours the archives for material on which he can loose his singular brand of bite and bile. Sending up bad TV is an easy way of filling airtime, as Clive James, Chris Tarrant and others continue to demonstrate, but Lewis-Smith does it with a masochistic relish. Among the regular strands in the series are Honest Obituary, in which Lewis-Smith kills off his least favourite presenters and Student TV, which features early forays in the medium by entertainers who are now established names. He also looks at Pilots that Crashed, those one-off programmes that were supposed to whet the appetite for a series but proved so bad that the first episode was also the last. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Youth Brass Band of the Year: Final Radio 2, 9.30pm

The fact that there are more than 6,000 brass bands for the young in Britain says a lot about the survival of strong traditions, and indeed about the young. Anyone who has missed the previous rounds of this new competition, on the grounds that "oompah" is not their thing, will be doing themselves a disservice if they miss tonight's final: this music is as far from the "oompah" variety as it is possible to get. Instead, the two finalists — from St Kerwelan in Cornwall and West Lothian Schools in Scotland — have already shown a sophistication and modernity that would make either band worthy winners. I hope that Radio 2, the competition sponsors, will in future broadcast a wider range of contestants than this time.

Lay-Deez and Gentlemen Radio 4, 11.30pm (FM only)

Kerry Shale was responsible for the award-winning The Set-Up and it was while doing the research for that programme that he became fascinated with boxing. Shale is only five feet tall so happily for him he did not determine to be a champion. He did, however, want to know what it was like to be a boxer, and he has found out. Shale is right that the bits and pieces around any activity are often more interesting than the activity itself. So here he meets the cuts men, the time keepers, the judges and the glamorous girls, who somehow get themselves through the ropes wearing high heels to carry cards with the number of the next round. Peter Barnard

RADIO 1

6.30am Kevin Greening and Zoli Ball 9.00am Simon Mayo 12.00pm John Peel 2.00pm Chris Evans 4.00pm Peter Dinklage 6.00pm Tom's Essential Selection 9.00am Judge Jules 11.00am Rap Show 2.00pm Fabio and Grooverider 4.00pm Emma B

RADIO 2

6.00am Alex Lester 7.30am Wogan 9.30am Johnnie Walker 11.00am Jimmy Young 1.30pm The Radio 2 Breakfast 3.00pm Ed Stewart 5.45pm John Durr 7.00pm Hubert Gregg 7.30pm Music Night 9.15pm Scoop 9.30pm Radio 2 Youth Brass Band of the Year. See Choice 10.00pm David Jacobs 10.30pm Arts Programme 12.00pm Charles Nove

RADIO 5 LIVE

6.00am The Breakfast Programme 8.00am Nicky Campbell 12.00pm The Midday News 1.00pm Ruocco and Co 4.00pm Nationwide 7.00pm News Extra 7.30pm Alan Green's Sportstalk 8.30pm Friday Sport 10.00pm Late Night Live 1.00pm Up All Night

VIRGIN RADIO

7.00am Chris Evans 10.00am Paul Coyte 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00pm Rob Banks 7.00pm Johnny Boy's Wheels of Steel 11.00pm Jerry Lee Grace 2.00pm Howard Pearce

TALK RADIO

6.30am Kirsty Young with Bill Overton 8.00pm Scott Chisholm 12.00pm Lorraine Kelly 2.00pm Tommy Boyd 4.00pm Peter Dinkley 7.00pm Sportzone 10.00pm Mike Allen 1.00pm Mike Dickinson

WORLD SERVICE

7.00am News 7.15pm Insight 7.30pm Pick of the World 8.00pm News 8.15pm On the Spot 8.30pm Music 9.00pm News (503 only) News in German 9.10pm Focus for Thought 9.15pm Westway 9.30pm John Peel 10.00pm News 10.05pm Business 10.15pm The Learning World 10.30pm Speaking of English 10.45pm Sport 11.00pm Newsweek 11.30pm Assignment 12.00pm News 12.30pm Focus on Faith 1.00pm News (504 only) News in German 1.05pm Business 1.15pm Britain Today 1.30pm You and the Law 1.45pm Sport 2.00pm Newshour 3.00pm News 3.05pm Outlook 3.30pm Multitrack Alternative 4.00pm News 4.05pm Football Extra 4.15pm Moments of Truth 4.30pm Science in Action 4.45pm News in German 5.00pm Europe Today 5.30pm News 5.45pm Britain Today 6.00pm News 6.15pm Insight 6.30pm The New Europe: News in German (504 only) 6.45pm Sport 7.00pm Newsweek 7.30pm Focus on Faith 8.00pm News 8.05pm Outlook 8.25pm Focus for Thought 8.30pm Multitrack Alternative 8.50pm News 10.00pm News 10.05pm Business 10.15pm Britain Today 10.30pm People and Politics 11.00pm Newsweek 11.30pm Insight 11.45pm Sport 12.00pm News 12.05pm Outlook 12.30pm Multitrack Alternative 1.00pm News 1.30pm From the West 1.45pm Britain Today 2.00pm Newsweek 2.30pm Moments of Truth 2.45pm Short Story 3.00pm Newsday 3.30pm People and Politics 4.00pm News 4.05pm Business 4.15pm Sport 4.30pm Insight 4.45pm On the Spot

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Breakfast with Binky 8.00am Henry Kelly 12.00pm Lunchtime Requests 2.00pm Concerto. Mozart (Carnegie Concerto in A) 4.00pm News 5.00pm Concerto. Beethoven (Symphony No 3) 6.00pm Evening Concert. Anonymous (Missa Ottaviano Per Le Mare); Magalhães (Kyrie); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 21 in C); Cardoso (Missa Quarta Extra); Luis de Freitas Branco (Valse); 11.00pm Mann at Night 2.00am Concerto (A)

RADIO 3

BBC Symphony Orchestra, with excerpts from Mozart's Symphony No 40 and Bruckner's Symphony No 9 4.00pm Music Restored (r) 4.45pm Music Machine: The Indian Subcontinent 5.00pm In Tune, with Sean Rafferty 7.30pm Performance of the Age of Enlightenment, under Charles Mackerras, with Emanuel Ax, 19th-century Erard piano, Dvořák (Czech Suite); Chopin (Piano Concerto No 1 in E minor); Brahms (Serenade No 1 in D) 9.35pm Postscript: Role Play (5/5) 10.00pm Composers' Ensemble, Pierre-André Valade conducts Mary Wiggall's soprano, Klaus Steffes-Hollander, piano, Delvay Muller-Siemens (Gottschalk); Franco Donatoni (An Angel within my Heart); Valdo Clementi (Wegenerlied); Niccolò Cataglioli (Alles Claus) 11.30pm Le Jazz Hot (r) 12.00pm Composer of the Week: Hummel (r) 1.00am Through the Night, with Donald Macleod

RADIO 4

6.00am Today, includes 6.55, 7.55 Weather 7.25, 8.25 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament 9.00pm Concerto in D minor 9.45 (FM) An Act of Worship 10.00pm News: Woman's Hour 11.00pm News: 12.15pm News: 1.15pm One Flat Summer: The Craven Stakes, by Dave Sheasby (r) 12.00pm (FM) News: You and Yours 12.57pm Weather 12.00pm (LW) News Headlines: Shipping Forecast 1.00pm The World at One 1.30pm Quota — Unquote, with Nigel Rees 2.00pm News: The Andrew (r) 2.15pm Afternoon Play: Confessions of a Love Addict 3.00pm News: Wired for a Week, with Dave Brahan 3.30pm Last of the Mohicans: The Stone Workers (5/5) 3.45pm Feedback 4.00pm News: Open Book with Humphrey Carpenter 4.30pm The Message, with Alex Brodie 5.00pm 5.57pm Weather 6.00pm Six O'Clock News 6.30pm The News Quiz 7.00pm News: The Archers 7.15pm Front Row, Arts magazine with Mark Lawson 7.45pm Postcard: The Funny Bones (r) 8.00pm News: Any Questions? Jonathan Dimbleby is joined in Satby, North Yorkshire, by panellists including William Aitken; Arthe Norman; and Matthew Parris, columnist and political sketch writer for The Times 8.45pm Letter from America 9.00pm News: The Friday Night: Flight to Arras, by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (read and dramatised by Rod Woodden 10.00pm The World Tonight, with Robin Lush 10.45pm Book of the Week: A Kind of Loving (10/10) 11.00pm Late Tackle, with Martin Best 11.30pm (FM) Lay-Deez and Gentlemen! See Choice 11.30pm (LW) Today in Parliament 12.00pm News: 12.57pm The Late Book: About a Boy 12.48pm Shipping Forecast 1.00am As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-92.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.8. LW 158. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE, MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE, LW 648; LW 116 (12.45-5.58am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO, MW 1023, 1038. Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McManis.

everybody's doing it tomorrow

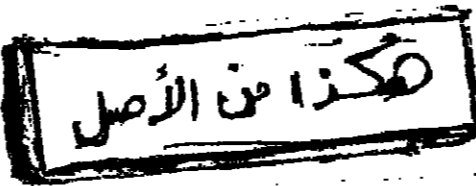
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كُنْذًا مِنَ الْأَصْلِ



Fame? Like searching for a pole on an icecap

How many schoolchildren have heard of Robert Peary. I wonder. Yet as *Icecap* (BBC2) showed us last night, his story is an inspiring example of the human spirit's indomitable, unquenchable drive to be famous.

Peary decided in his youth that whoever got to the North Pole first would become as well-known as Christopher Columbus, and even more sought-after as an after-dinner speaker. So that is what he devoted his life to achieving.

Nowadays we are used to dedicated loonies heading for the Poles on camels, pushing supermarket trolleys or hopping backwards on one leg. It came as a surprise to discover that the original explorers were motivated by the same self-publicising need for adventure for its own sake.

The British believed from the beginning in proving their manhood by making things unreasonably difficult. A Royal Navy expedition of 1875 set off across the ice with sleds like mahogany bedsteads which they pulled themselves because they probably thought "Eloven" (Eloven) was "cheating". Elsewhere they went down with scurvy, but they walked a record distance on the icecap.

This was passed by a succession of cissies from Norway, America and Italy, all using dog teams and even more sophisticated sleds. But it wasn't until Peary brought his unusual blend of personal qualities to the problem — he was obsessive, jealous, driven, arrogant and a man of absolute integrity, apparently — that anyone was in danger of getting close.

Peary's arch-rival was Wally American Dr Frederick Cook, and it was the spectacular controversy over which of them got there first that provided the heart of Mick Conroy's entertaining documentary. Peary tried again and again.

Peary returned in triumph. Cook and his partner got lost, but eventually found their way to the Danish authorities on Greenland. They claimed to have pipped Peary by several months. Cook's claim was believed at first, then demolished. But Peary's own navigation records bizarrely lacked the precision he would have known was necessary for conclusive proof.

He lost eight toes on his first attempt. On another occasion his wife arrived unexpectedly at his base camp to find he was avoiding frostbite with an Eskimo mistress.

His final attempt was planned with military precision, "down to the last tin of food", and involved five support teams successively peeling off as the main group headed north. Meanwhile, Cook set off unannounced on his own expedition and disappeared without trace.

Peary eventually won the media battle, with Cook discredited and imprisoned for an unrelated fraud, but their supporters still argue about who was telling the truth. Sixty years later when Wally Herbert's British expedition reached the Pole, they received messages from both the Peary and Cook camps congratulating them on coming second. Herbert was modestly generous to Peary, but



after hearing the evidence, my money's on Herbert.

I haven't found it yet, but there is clearly a clause in some recent broadcasting legislation requiring all channels to cluster up their mid-evening schedules with cheap documentaries about police work.

Crime Beat (BBC1) returned for the first of a test-part run and lots and lots of video footage of nasty young thugs up to no good, caught on closed-circuit television.

In fact it is surprisingly easy to spot a criminal, because they all have blurred faces and walk around with a private cloud of mist around their heads. This aid to recognition is helping progressive police forces to cut thefts dramatically and is a useful warning sign to the general public.

Britain still suffers far more crime than any of our European neighbours, and the programme looks at how different police forces are coping with it. It wanted

to be reassuring, demonstrating effective and sensible measures to make life better for honest citizens. And there were some impressive techniques, like the swarm of South Wales police cars boxing in a speeding vehicle in a "rolling roadblock", to prevent the dangerous high-speed chase the driver probably wanted.

But at the same time it was deeply depressing. Leeds police have halved crime by installing closed-circuit television throughout the entire city centre. A Derby inventor called Ken Wigley has created a "safe" car park where each bay has its own electronic sensor wired up to the CCTV system.

I have no intention of stealing someone's noddling dog and will be extremely upset if my car is broken into or stolen, but I loathe the feeling that I am being filmed without my knowledge or permis-

sion whenever I step out of the front door. I also suspect that the police co-operate with these programmes precisely because they tell us we are being watched all the time. "All my dreams have come true," said Mr Wigley of his car park — or my nightmares.

Real police work may involve watching spotty teenagers nicking cars or the fancy cars include bugging paedophiles, having sex with a woman who sold her baby, killing a hitman, sending a colleague to buy a child from an Albanian orphanage and being stalked by a deranged man who beats you up, abducts your children and torches your house. But that's all in an hour's work for Robson Green as D. I. Creegan in last night's *Touching Evil* (ITV).

This confection ought to burst apart like an over-stuffed mince pie, but it works in a frantic sort of way and I'll be watching Part Two next week.

REVIEW



Paul Hoggart

8.00am Business Breakfast (80629)

- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (50613)
- 9.00 Change That (8971261)
- 9.25 Kilroy (1) (9071124)
- 10.05 A Date with Fate (7285613)
- 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (1) (8014829)
- 10.55 The Really Useful Show (1) (4929934)
- 11.35 The General (8971174)
- 12.05 News (1) (9753648)

12.05 International Golf

- The opening 18 holes of the PGA Championship at Wentworth. Welshman Ian Woosnam begins the defence of his title on the Surrey course against an all-star line-up (4391764)
- 1.00pm News (1) and weather (53700)
- 1.30 Regional News (1) (13477342)
- 1.40 The Weather Show (2267000)
- 1.45 Neighbours (1) (95460342)
- 2.10 Ironside (1) (9689754)
- 3.00 Through the Keyhole (4700)

3.30 Playdays (1) (5109759)

- 3.50 The Littlest Shop (210477)
- 4.00 Bogger and Badger (800491)
- 4.15 Bailey Kipper's POV (1) (9031498)
- 4.35 Clarissa Explains It All. Last in series (1) (1894919)

5.00 Newaround Euro-Star! Teenager

- Matthew Linden journeys to Spain where he meets Bobby Robson (1) (8616767)
- 5.10 Blue Peter (1) (8026919)
- 5.35 Neighbours (1) (1) (832464)
- 6.00 News (1) and weather (910)
- 6.30 Regional News (1) (241)

7.00 Weekend Watchdog with Anne Robinson

- Consumer investigations (1) (9209)
- 7.30 Top of the Pops Jamie Theakston introduces music from Lúcia McNeal; The Mavericks; Temperer featuring Maye; Imani; Shed Seven. Plus the number one from All Saints (1) (483)

8.00 Confessions presented by Simon Mayo

- with celebrity guests Bradley Walsh and Top Gear's Tiff Needell (1) (5629)
- 8.30 Blankety Blank Barbara Dickson, Stan Lloyd and John Virgo join soap stars past and present Mark Little, Andrew Lynford and Shanie Newton (1) (7454)

9.00 News (1) and weather (4358)

- 9.30 Invasion: Earth. Terra drops a bombshell on the team, revealing why he has journeyed to Earth and the full extent of the aliens' scheme for the planet (1) (968193)

0.25 Highlander III: The Sorcerer

- (1994) Fantasy sequel, with Christopher Lambert, Mario Van Peebles and Deborah Unger. Directed by Michael Mann (1) (4081930) WALS: 10.25 Whole Lotta Money (497367) 10.55 FILM: Highlander III: The Sorcerer (3279613) 12.25am FILM: Twins of Evil (9642555) 1.45 News (3081743) 1.50 BBC News 24
- 1.55am News (1) (1894919)
- 1.55am News (1) (1894919)
- 1.55am News (1) (1894919)

15am Weather (3334349)

- 20 BBC News 24

VIDEO Plus+ and VIDEO Plus+ codes

For further listings see today's Vision

1. Tattered Teenage Alien Fighters versus the (74261) 7.30 Games (8754948) 7.45 The Simpsons (307071) 11.25 Alaska (1993) 11.00 Our Lives (19716) 12.00 Married Men (22811) 12.30am M*A*S*H (19256) 0.25 Safely (88139) 3.00 Jerry Lewis (1989) 3.30 The Untouchables (1922) 6.00 The Nanny (1997) 6.30 Married with Children (7735) 6.45 Neighbours (1997) 6.55 Europe (785811) 7.00 The X-Files (78941) 11.00 Star Trek: Voyager (92009) 12.00 Football League Review (78589) 0.25 Legend Cowboys (78589) 0.25 Legend Cowboys (78589)

PPK OFFICE

For more video listings see today's Vision

PPK Office (1997) 1.00 The Simpsons (307071) 11.25 Alaska (1993) 11.00 Our Lives (19716) 12.00 Married Men (22811) 12.30am M*A*S*H (19256) 0.25 Safely (88139) 3.00 Jerry Lewis (1989) 3.30 The Untouchables (1922) 6.00 The Nanny (1997) 6.30 Married with Children (7735) 6.45 Neighbours (1997) 6.55 Europe (785811) 7.00 The X-Files (78941) 11.00 Star Trek: Voyager (92009) 12.00 Football League Review (78589) 0.25 Legend Cowboys (78589) 0.25 Legend Cowboys (78589)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

- 4.00pm Garden of Evil (1994) (5041940)
- 6.00 Jet Pilot (1957) (510116) 8.00 Big Trouble in Little China (1986) (5208716)
- 10.00 The Man Who Would Be King (1975) (5208716)
- 10.30 The Untouchables (1997) (5208716)
- 11.00 The Untouchables (1997) (5208716)
- 11.30 The Untouchables (1997) (5208716)
- 12.00 The Untouchables (1997) (5208716)

TNT

- 9.00pm WCW Nitro (3699600) 10.00 Game of Thrones (1997) (510116)
- 11.00 The Untouchables (1997) (5208716)
- 11.30 The Untouchables (1997) (5208716)
- 12.00 The Untouchables (1997) (5208716)

OFFICE

- 1.00 The Simpsons (307071) 11.25 Alaska (1993) 11.00 Our Lives (19716) 12.00 Married Men (22811) 12.30am M*A*S*H (19256) 0.25 Safely (88139) 3.00 Jerry Lewis (1989) 3.30 The Untouchables (1922) 6.00 The Nanny (1997) 6.30 Married with Children (7735) 6.45 Neighbours (1997) 6.55 Europe (785811) 7.00 The X-Files (78941) 11.00 Star Trek: Voyager (92009) 12.00 Football League Review (78589) 0.25 Legend Cowboys (78589) 0.25 Legend Cowboys (78589)

SKY SPORTS 1

- 7.00am Sports Centre (1) (193) 7.30 News (1) (193) 8.00 Sports Centre (1) (193) 8.30 News (1) (193) 9.00 Sports Centre (1) (193) 9.30 News (1) (193) 10.00 Sports Centre (1) (193) 10.30 News (1) (193) 11.00 Sports Centre (1) (193) 11.30 News (1) (193) 12.00 Sports Centre (1) (193)

SKY SPORTS 2

- 7.00am Sports Centre (1) (193) 7.30 News (1) (193) 8.00 Sports Centre (1) (193) 8.30 News (1) (193) 9.00 Sports Centre (1) (193) 9.30 News (1) (193) 10.00 Sports Centre (1) (193) 10.30 News (1) (193) 11.00 Sports Centre (1) (193) 11.30 News (1) (193) 12.00 Sports Centre (1) (193)

6.10am Questions of Sovereignty

- (5521700)
- 7.00 Teletubbies (1) (9608464) 7.25 The Flintstones Comedy Show (914071) 7.50 50/50 (1) (1) (7762648) 8.15 Funky Phantom (7834714) 8.35 Pingu (1) (2262528) 8.45 The Record (4933648) 9.10 Go for It! (2461629) 9.30 Watch (7321629) 10.00 Teletubbies (19822) 10.30 Look and Read (3847532) 10.50 M3 About Music (3867396) 11.10 Landmarks (3045822) 11.30 Sportsbank (6193) 12.00 Shakespeare (84209) Animated Tale: Twelfth Night (84209)

12.30pm Working Lunch (94984)

- 1.00 Funnies (1) (1423209) 1.05 Bananaman (1) (14227280) 1.10 The Country Side Hour: Northern Ireland (1624483)
- 2.10 International Golf Further coverage of the first round of the PGA Championship at Wentworth (13727938)
- 6.00 The Simpsons Bart tries to train his dog before Homer has the chance to remove it from the house. Featuring the voice of Tracy Ullman (1) (841071)

6.25 Star Trek (1) (982938)

- 7.15 Lost in Space (1) (140754)
- 7.30 Quantum Leap: Uncertain Principles The ground-breaking quantum theory, which revolutionised scientific thought and laid the framework of modern perceptions of matter. Though Albert Einstein helped formulate the theory, he remained plagued by doubt, and failed to find a definite proof for it (1) (975)

8.00 The Hunt-Town and Country

- A town and country life in a rural Worcestershire (1) (3071)
- 8.30 Gardeners' World France's top horticultural event. Les Joumees des Plantes de Courson (1) (5006)
- 9.00 Bottom (1) (1) (2700)

9.30 Alexei Sayle's Merry-Go-Round

- Comic asides on people still in their first jobs (1) (87648)
- 10.00 Have I Got News for You Angus Deayton, Mark Lillis, Andrew Lynford and Shanie Newton (1) (7454)
- 9.00 News (1) and weather (4358)
- 9.30 Invasion: Earth. Terra drops a bombshell on the team, revealing why he has journeyed to Earth and the full extent of the aliens' scheme for the planet (1) (968193)

10.20 Tales from the Net (458551)

- 10.30 Newswright (1) (182736)

10.30 Alexei Sayle's Merry-Go-Round

- Comic asides on people still in their first jobs (1) (87648)
- 10.00 Have I Got News for You Angus Deayton, Mark Lillis, Andrew Lynford and Shanie Newton (1) (7454)
- 9.00 News (1) and weather (4358)
- 9.30 Invasion: Earth. Terra drops a bombshell on the team, revealing why he has journeyed to Earth and the full extent of the aliens' scheme for the planet (1) (968193)

15am Weather (3334349)

- 20 BBC News 24

VIDEO Plus+ and VIDEO Plus+ codes

For further listings see today's Vision

1. Tattered Teenage Alien Fighters versus the (74261) 7.30 Games (8754948) 7.45 The Simpsons (307071) 11.25 Alaska (1993) 11.00 Our Lives (19716) 12.00 Married Men (22811) 12.30am M*A*S*H (19256) 0.25 Safely (88139) 3.00 Jerry Lewis (1989) 3.30 The Untouchables (1922) 6.00 The Nanny (1997) 6.30 Married with Children (7735) 6.45 Neighbours (1997) 6.55 Europe (785811) 7.00 The X-Files (78941) 11.00 Star Trek: Voyager (92009) 12.00 Football League Review (78589) 0.25 Legend Cowboys (78589) 0.25 Legend Cowboys (78589)

PPK OFFICE

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SKY MOVIES GOLD

- 4.00pm Garden of Evil (1994) (5041940)
- 6.00 Jet Pilot (1957) (510116) 8.00 Big Trouble in Little China (1986) (5208716)
- 10.00 The Man Who Would Be King (1975) (5208716)
- 10.30 The Untouchables (1997) (5208716)
- 11.00 The Untouchables (1997) (5208716)
- 11.30 The Untouchables (1997) (5208716)
- 12.00 The Untouchables (1997) (5208716)

TNT

- 9.00pm WCW Nitro (3699600) 10.00 Game of Thrones (1997) (510116)
- 11.00 The Untouchables (1997) (5208716)
- 11.30 The Untouchables (1997) (5208716)
- 12.00 The Untouchables (1997) (5208716)

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SKY SPORTS 1

- 7.00am Sports Centre (1) (193) 7.30 News (1) (193) 8.00 Sports Centre (1) (193) 8.30 News (1) (193) 9.00 Sports Centre (1) (193) 9.30 News (1) (193) 10.00 Sports Centre (1) (193) 10.30 News (1) (193) 11.00 Sports Centre (1) (193) 11.30 News (1) (193) 12.00 Sports Centre (1) (193)

SKY SPORTS 2

- 7.00am Sports Centre (1) (193) 7.30 News (1) (193) 8.00 Sports Centre (1) (193) 8.30 News (1) (193) 9.00 Sports Centre (1) (193) 9.30 News (1) (193) 10.00 Sports Centre (1) (193) 10.30 News (1) (193) 11.00 Sports Centre (1) (193) 11.30 News (1) (193) 12.00 Sports Centre (1) (193)

6.00am GMTV (9522735)

- 9.25 This Morning (1) (9754268)
- 9.30 Vanessa (1) (2130377)
- 10.10 This Morning (1) (2895193)
- 12.15pm HTV News and weather (8498358)
- 12.30 News (1) and weather (94938)
- 1.00 Wish You Were Here? (51396) 1.30 Home and Away (1) (93209)
- 2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (1) (3978900)
- 3.45 WALS: Get Gardening (849716)
- 2.45 Garden Calendar (849716)
- 3.15 News (3170377)
- 3.20 Regional News (4783029)
- 3.30 Big Bag (8012523) 3.50 Paddington Bear (1) (5040458) 3.55 Animal Stories (5403919) 4.00 Magic with Everything (6786321) 4.20 Animalians (1) (1) (6053803) 4.40 Crazy Cottage (1) (4708822)

5.10 A Country Practice (8372280)

- 5.40 News (1) and weather (515358)
- 6.00 Home and Away (1) (1) (941025)
- 6.25 WALS: Wales Tonight (870241)
- 6.55 HTV Weather (559193)
- 6.30 The West Tonight (667)
- 7.00 Emeraldale Bulch is determined to solve the poaching problem to Frank's grave enraged Zoe (1) (4377)
- 7.30 Coronation Street Samantha has some shocking news for Des (1) (551)

8.00 My Wonderful Life

- Donna's household hears wonderful news. Comedy with Tony Robinson and Patsy Stone (1) (3025)
- 8.30 The Bill Meadows, Carver and Proctor receive a tip off about a burglary in a fish shop (1) (2532)
- 9.00 When Good Times Go Bad Real-life disasters captured, as they happen, on camcorder (1) (8667)
- 10.00 News (1) and weather (52464)
- 10.30 HTV News and weather (285735)
- 10.40 WALS: Futureworld (1976) with Peter Fonda and Blythe Danner. Two journalists sample a theme park's space age rides and uncover a plot to achieve world domination. Directed by Richard T. Heffron (80479990)

10.40 Festival Live

- Henny Kelly presents a live programme from the Bath International Music Festival (2/3) (910209)
- 11.40 Highlander: Legacy (856342)
- 12.40am Neash Bridges (3050633)
- 1.20 War of the Worlds (7303267)
- 2.35 Customs Classified (8598975)
- 3.05 Collins and Macorie's Movie Club (21292897)
- 3.35 We Can Work It Out (85548101)
- 4.00 Ed's Night Party (37615859)
- 4.20 Coach (37619575)
- 4.45 ITV Nightvision (96313304)
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MOTOR RACING 46

Villeneuve driven to distraction in Monaco warm-up

SPORT

FRIDAY MAY 22 1998

GOLF 50

Els aiming to savour champagne moments at Wentworth



South Africa sweep to comfortable victory in first Texaco Trophy match

England's limited ability exposed

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

THE OVAL (South Africa won toss): South Africa beat England by three wickets

THERE were moments yesterday — two of them, specifically — when it seemed that England were about to defy considerable odds and reimpose their hold on the first match of the Texaco Trophy series.

South Africa, though, were having none of it. Their depth, athleticism and composure were all evident as they won a lukewarm contest with minimal fuss.

If not quite at their best, so soon after arrival, they were close enough to make no difference. England, obliged to bat first on a morning when heavy cloud encouraged the swing bowlers, could inject no

Graveney's gospel 48 Hick in a hurry 49

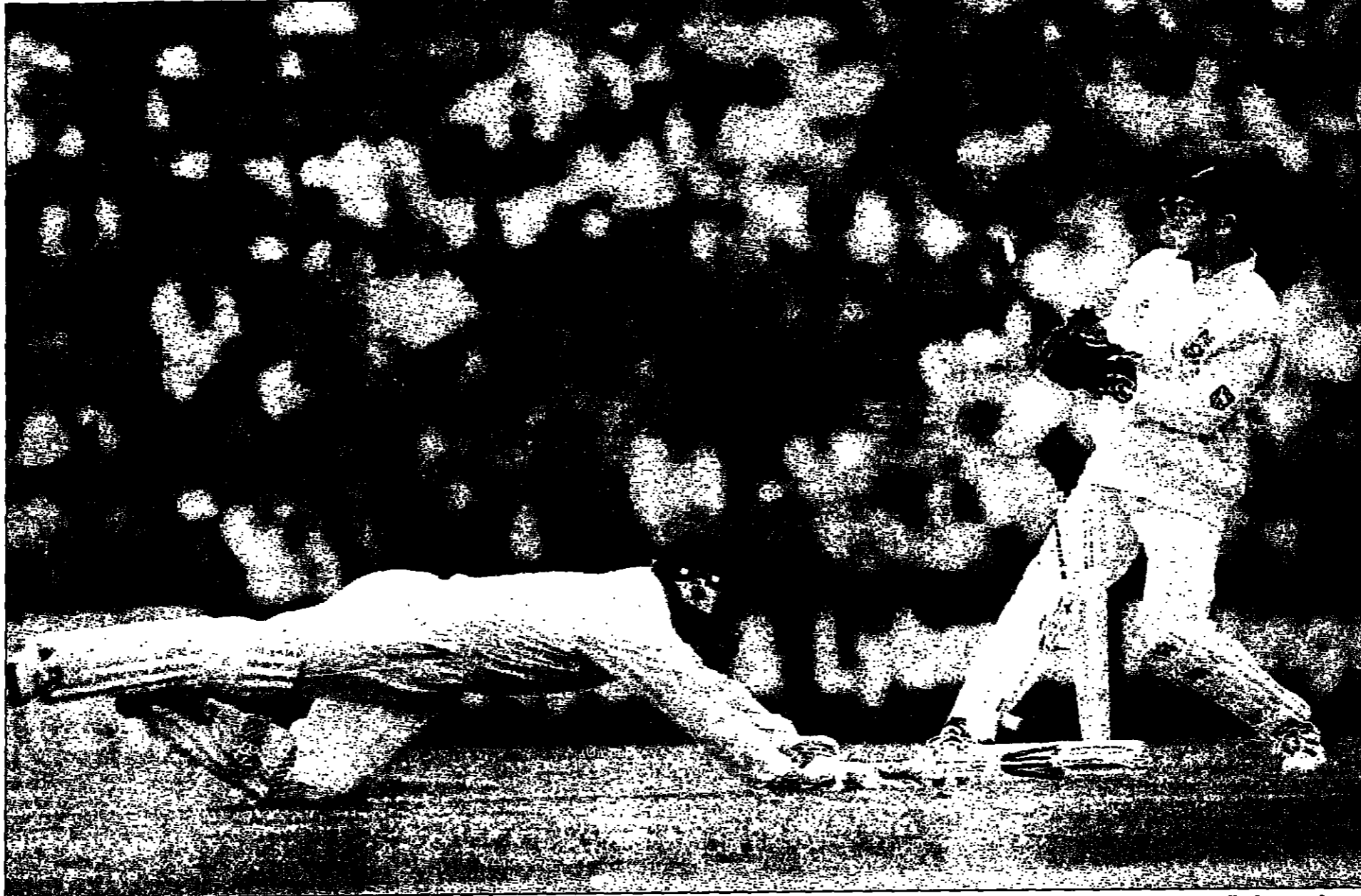
prolonged momentum into their innings and fell 30 runs short of a total fully to extend their opponents.

On the two occasions when England engineered a position of promise, South Africa suffocated them. They were 135 for two, a solid platform built for the final 15 overs, before losing four wickets for six runs — two to run-outs, exemplifying South Africa's peerless fielding.

Gough raised hopes again with the second-ball dismissal of Kirsten, but South Africa rode that blow disdainfully and it was only when Croft took two wickets with consecutive balls to leave them at 175 for six that England had a clear sight of victory.

Even then, it was fleeting. Jonty Rhodes, ingenious and irrepressible, swept South Africa home with an unbeaten 39 from 43 balls. They won it with eight balls to spare. Rhodes pulling the slowest of long-hops from Lewis for the concluding four.

This was South Africa's fifteenth one-day international since the turn of the year and their twelfth win, the past five of them batting second. They are competent and cohesive



Ealham's despairing dive for the crease is in vain as Boucher, the South Africa wicketkeeper, whips off the balls to run him out after a superb throw by Pollock yesterday

rather than exciting, but mighty hard to beat for all that. England will need to raise their game appreciably if they are to retain the trophy for a seventh time.

Captains winning the toss at the Oval are seldom keen to put in the opposition, but conditions yesterday clearly dawned grey and brooding.

England, deprived of Graham Thorpe by injury and

opting for Ashley Giles ahead of Matthew Fleming, soon discovered the extent of the hazards. The ball darted around in the air for Shaun Pollock and Lance Klusener and early ambitions were necessarily confined to survival.

It required a blend of luck and judgment but it was some achievement, nonetheless, and when Allan Donald was summoned after 12 overs and conceded 13 from his first six balls, England were 53 without loss and daring to raise their sights.

A no-ball, however, meant that Donald had one delivery left: Alec Stewart, playing his hundredth one-day international, was bowled off a combination of elbow and thigh and England's best hope of dominance had gone.

With two of the next three batsmen making their England debuts and the third bearing a well-defined sense of grievance, there was scope for a stressful passage. But the next two wickets added 51 and 46 respectively to give England an illusion of control.

Chris Adams will not remember his first international innings with any great pride. Nerves imposed inhibitions, eroding his usual forceful fluency. There were some ugly

heaves, some mis-hits and some escapes, but it would be harsh to judge him on this. At least he persevered, making 25 from 47 balls before hanging out his bat against Kallis.

In the next nine overs, with

Hussain offering a sequence of strokes that made his original omission all the more puzzling, England began to accelerate hearteningly. Knight swung Symcox over mid-wicket for six and a

competitive score of around 260 began to look feasible. The day turned on a typical piece of brilliance from Rhodes. Hussain turned Symcox on the leg side, took two strides then, sensing the danger, sent his partner back.

Too late. Rhodes had swooped, his pick-up and return far too quick for Knight.

Maddy made one before playing across the line against Symcox; Hussain was acrobatically caught by Boucher and Ealham, failing to steal two to third man, trying to beat a superb 70-yard throw from Pollock.

Adam Holloake, the captain, was watching the innings subside around him but he responded vibrantly, driving with style and shovelling Donald over mid-wicket for four as he gathered 32 from 28 balls.

In his heart, he must have feared it was not enough, even when Gough dismissed Kirsten, the most prolific of the South Africa batsmen — jugglingly caught at slip by Adams. Australians have mocked South Africa as "botlers" but there was no sign of it here.

The innings was relaunched with care until Kallis greeted Giles by smashing him twice over extra-cover for four be-

Smith in promise to carry on fight

By Craig Lord

THE case against Michelle Smith seemed stronger last night after the solicitor representing the triple Olympic champion from Ireland confirmed that the lethal dose of alcohol found in the A sample provided to drug testers in January was also present in the B sample.

That twin specimen was analysed in front of Peter Lennon, Smith's solicitor, and a biochemist from a Dublin hospital in Barcelona yesterday. In a statement last night, Lennon said: "It appears clear at this time that our client can only be charged with physical manipulation and not the use of any banned substance... we do not expect there to be any change between the adulteration results of the A sample and B sample."

In light of there being "no evidence of her having physically manipulated the sample", Smith was "more determined than ever to fight any charges that may be formally brought against her". The indication was that Lennon and Smith will call upon Fina, the governing body, to prove that she was the one who placed the alcohol in the urine sample.

Fina would not confirm the findings last night. However, it is now expected that the matter will be referred to the Doping Panel that will decide on any penalty. Fina rules provide for anything up to a lifetime ban for manipulation. If any such case goes against Smith, she can appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport in Switzerland.

The news will shift the focus onto the evidence supplied to Fina by the drug testers. Al and Kay Guy, immediately after the January 10 test when Smith provided the sample.

Dr José Merino, the doctor who represented Fina at the testing of the B sample, said yesterday: "I cannot of course say anything about today's testing. But what you can be assured of is that this laboratory is among the most prestigious of the IOC laboratories. It is prized for its great security of handling these matters. You can be assured that the laboratory was in no doubt that... all correct procedures were followed."

He said the presence of alcohol made the testing of the A sample all the more complex.

SCOREBOARD FROM THE OVAL

Table with columns for South Africa won toss, ENGLAND, SOUTH AFRICA, and various player statistics including runs, wickets, and bowling figures.

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and the number 'No 1412'.

- ACROSS: 1 Special assault unit (8), 5 Complacent (4), 9 Spiral of disaster (7,6), 10 Horseback game (4), 11 Mariners' star-angle measurer (7), 13 One dying for cause (6), 15 Conceal; front of TV (6), 18 Giant David killed (7), 20 Before (4); a stake (4), 23 Shaw play; madman - he ranis (anag.) (4,3,3,3), 24 Use keyboard (4), 25 Nacation (8)

- SOLUTION TO NO 1411: ACROSS: 2 Barbados 6 Haggie 8 Domain 9 Lazarus 10 Scott 12 Windjammer 16 Upholstery 18 Aware 20 Vibrate 21 Dilute 22 Arable 23 Disorder DOWN: 1 Gagaria 2 Bequeath 3 Blouse 4 Drake 5 Senate 7 Grandeur 11 Criteria 13 Millibar 14 Brittle 15 Landed 17 Pester 19 Atlas

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP advertisement for crossword puzzle titles.

Zola is omitted for World Cup

By Brian Glanville

ALAS, poor Zola! Unfairly sent off in the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States, Gianfranco Zola, Chelsea's match-winner in the Cup Winners' Cup final last week, was yesterday left out of the Italy World Cup squad.

Cesare Maldini, the Italy coach, sprung other surprises as well. Pierluigi Casiraghi, the Lazio centre forward, was left out despite scoring the decisive goal in the play-off second leg against Russia. Casiraghi finds that both Fabrizio Ravanello and, more unexpectedly, Roberto Baggio have been preferred.

There is one faint hope for Zola. Alessandro Del Piero, the brilliant young Juventus attacker, has not yet been named in the squad because he was injured during the European Cup final on Wednesday and the medical report is awaited.

Baggio, 31, was a hero of the last World Cup despite his early substitution by Arrigo Sacchi, then the Italy coach, against Norway to make room for a substitute goalkeeper when Gianluca Pagliuca was sent off. Baggio's goals took Italy to the final, where he missed a penalty in the shoot-out. He scored twice in the second-round game against Nigeria, the winner against Spain in the quarter-finals and both of Italy's semi-final goals against Bulgaria.

Discarded by Juventus, Baggio then struggled at AC Milan under both Sacchi and Fabio Capello and he was again offloaded. This season, at Bologna, he

was at odds with his coach, Renzo Ulivieri, for a time but a series of dazzling performances have plainly given him the nod over Zola.

Astonishing, too, is the return to the international team after a long absence of Giuseppe Bergomi, the 34-year-old captain of Internazionale. Captain of Italy in the 1990 World Cup and 77 times capped by his country, he made a spectacular appearance for Italy as an 18-year-old substitute in the 1982 World Cup in Spain against Brazil in Barcelona. He went on to gain a winner's medal when West Germany were beaten in Madrid in the final.

Last season, under the management of Roy Hodgson, Bergomi was not even certain of his place in Inter's defence. This season, however, he has firmly established his place. His selection clearly reflects the dissatisfaction of Maldini with the present stopper, Alessandro Costacurta, who has been having a thin time of it with Milan.



Brian Glanville on Greg Rusedski in the

Advertisement for First Telecom offering 30 minutes of free calls to any country in the world.

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page, including text like 'Why do women go to Saudi Arabia?' and 'Mass turnout for bolsters'.

Vertical text on the left edge of the page, including 'spirits out', 'fall tent off', 'star to', 'of poor', 'The nes get', 'Chi real sets', 'con ind ver', 'pro par', '200 civi', 'will T', 'swe off', 'cris', 'As are', 'read', 'dea', 'pro', 'rep sur', 'ver ing', 'ric der', 'hu ob', 'ca', 'g d', 'w n', 'c d', 'h a', 'of po', 'wi in', 'ha', 'y 50', 'sb ar', 'pe re', 'q cr', 'ce si', 'N', 'A', 'Ch', 'br ne', 'v', 'pe', 'mi', 'sor', 'ent', 'yes', 'enc', 'han', 'see', 'ma', 'tics', 'Ma', 'for', 'two', 'on', 'fir', 'dee', 'to', 'c', 'was', 'Zea', 'Answers', '(a) An', 'of trop', 'spelling', 'RUMP', '(a) Air', 'especial', 'with eel', 'PINTAI', '(a) An', 'in Spanish', 'orname', 'nter', 'SATTAC', '(a) The', 'I', 'Gandhi', 'perdica', 'a moral', 'satya', 'gral', 'passive', 'r against', 'e', 'I, Reg', 'K

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